



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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17 March 1993

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Somali Reconciliation Conference Continues

UN Envoy Notes Progress

EA1603194293 Addis Ababa Voice of Ethiopia Network in Amharic 1700 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Positive progress is being made at the Somali national reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa to bring peace and stability and a conducive atmosphere for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia. Lansana Kouyate, UN deputy special envoy for Somalia, met President Meles Zenawi today and said that important ideas are coming from the various groups attending the conference. Kouyate also noted that the conference, which started on 15 March, is progressing positively and is very encouraging. Kouyate briefed President Meles on the conference in general. This conference is expected to wind up on 20 March.

Delegate: 'We All Want To Be President'

EA1603221593 Paris AFP in English 2140 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Addis Ababa, March 16 (AFP)—The crucial all-party talks to find a settlement for Somalia seemed to be heading towards stalemate Tuesday [16 March], with one participant saying the situation was "hopeless, we all want to be president".

Some 300 delegates from Somalia's 15 warring factions as well as women's groups, intellectuals, community leaders and clan elders are attending the five-day National Reconciliation Conference here.

Senior Ethiopian and United Nations officials opened the talks Monday by warning Somali leaders that the world was fast losing patience with their interminable fighting and failure to agree on how to set up a broad-based government.

General Adan "Gabiow" Abdullahi Nur, the leader of one branch of the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM), told AFP that the talks were smooth but unproductive. "The speeches were beautiful, the ideas were good, but that doesn't mean anything," said Gabiow. [passage omitted]

Conference sources said the main division between the parties was over how to form a government. The most powerful warlord, General Farah Aidid (an ally of Jess) wants to set up regional administrations and then move towards a central government. Some factions believe they must begin with the government, and others seem to favour tackling both ends at once.

U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi said the second day's debates went well: "We have good reason to believe the conference will succeed." [passage omitted]

Leader Urges Consolidation

AB1603131193 Dakar PANA in English 1047 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Addis Ababa, 16 Mar (PANA)—As the Somalia reconciliation meeting enters its second day in Addis Ababa Tuesday, one of the political leaders has called for the consolidation of a united and independent country. We need a united Somalia within the Horn of Africa. Gen. Mohamed Adshir Musse, chairman of the north-eastern-based Somali Salvation Democratic Front told PANA.

Peace loving Somalis, he said, were against the disintegrated Somalia. Leaders in north-western Somalia have been advocating independence from the rest of Somalia.

The Somali National Movement, which is attending the Addis Ababa meeting as an observer, declared the region independent in May 1991, calling it Somaliland. No country has recognized it.

However, Musse welcomed the creation of regional autonomy within a strong central government for Somalia. The country has been torn apart by factional fighting. It has been without a government since the fall of President Mohamed Siad Barre in January, 1991. During general debate at the meeting Monday [15 March], some seven political movements called for the creation of regional administrations to monitor the delivery of relief aid and funds for the rehabilitation of Somalia.

Also, Musse welcomed the call by Ethiopia Monday for punitive measures to be taken against Somali leaders who breach agreements entered into.

At the end of their preparatory meeting in Addis Ababa on 8 January Somali leaders had agreed on a country-wide cease-fire, and to work for national reconciliation and peace. However, there has been factional fighting. Relief workers and troops of the U.S.-led unified force have been killed.

Somaliland Rejects Unification

EA1703113593 Addis Ababa Voice of Ethiopia Network in Amharic 0930 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] The northern part of Somalia which declared its independence and called itself the northern Somali Republic [Republic of Somaliland] has set itself aside from the Somali reconciliation conference under way in Africa Hall, Addis Ababa. In his press statement at D'Afrique Hotel today, Mr. Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal, former prime minister of Somalia and the current prime minister of northern Somali republic, said that his republic does not support the idea of forming one Somalia. When asked about the other three organizations in northern Somalia who are struggling for the unity of Somalia, he said that they would evaporate into thin air.

Aidid Faction Suspends Participation*AB1703100593 Paris AFP in French 0906 GMT 17 Mar 93*

[Text] Addis Ababa, 17 Mar (AFP)—The faction of the powerful warlord, General Mohamed Aidid, announced on 17 March in a communique that "it was suspending its participation" in the Somalia national reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa.

The four factions of the Somalia National Alliance (SNA), are thus reacting to the recent incidents in Kismaayo (southern Somalia).

Soldiers of General Mohamed Said Hersi Morgan, former President Siad Barre's son-in-law, attacked the forces of Colonel Omar Jays, General Aidid's ally, in the port town of Kismaayo on 16 March.

The SNA asked the Addis Ababa national reconciliation conference to condemn this "aggression which is a flagrant violation of the cease-fire." It requested that the conference "unanimously consider Morgan a bandit." It also called on the Unified Task Force international forces in Somalia "to rid Kismaayo of its invaders" and "to ensure that such incidents are not repeated."

It is only when these conditions are met that the SNA will resume its participation in the conference, the communique added.

Deliberations of the conference had not resumed the morning of 17 March as scheduled. Everybody was waiting for General Aidid's reaction after the Kismaayo incidents. It was not yet established late in the morning if the conference would continue without the SNA's participation.

Ali Mahdi Addresses Reconciliation, Reconstruction*NC1703074093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 17 Mar 93*

[Telephone interview with Somali Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed, in Addis Ababa, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; Mohamed speaks in Somali with superimposed Arabic translation; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Your Excellency, what are your proposals for national reconciliation in Somalia?

[Mohamed] First of all, to achieve a cease-fire all over Somalia, to live in a sovereign state, and to resolve all Somali problems with the help of the entire world.

[Al-Jundi] Do you have any plans to step down and form a transitional government in Somalia under the leadership of any other leader?

[Mohamed] Yes. I am willing to help anyone who the Somali people want and elect. I have talked repeatedly

about that. [Words indistinct] if we can find a permanent solution to the Somali problem.

[Al-Jundi] Do you approve of the process to disarm the warring Somali factions 100 percent?

[Mohamed] Yes, I approve of this 100 percent [words indistinct] to reach a permanent solution to the Somali problem. We have to put down our rifles and everything else and to think about and find a comprehensive solution to the Somali problem.

[Al-Jundi] People in northern Somalia believe that the south constitutes a burden on the Somali state. This has strengthened the northern Somalis' inclination to declare independence.

[Mohamed] Somalia's unity is sacred; it is not subject to compromise. We are prepared to discuss matters and find the solution for any problem. God willing, we will achieve this.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Butrus-Ghali announced before the UN Security Council that restoring normalcy to Somalia will cost \$1.5 billion in the first year alone. Do you think that the assistance donor states have promised to give in case national reconciliation is achieved is sufficient to build an exemplary Somalia?

[Mohamed] The fact is 65 percent of Somalia needs reconstruction. I believe that rebuilding Somalia needs major assistance. I do not believe that \$1.5 billion will be enough to rebuild all of Somalia. However, it is a good start for resolving the problem.

[Al-Jundi] Do you blame the warring Somali factions for what happened in Somalia or do you blame everyone for the tragedy of the Somali people?

[Mohamed] We are now prepared for a solution and for the Somali reconciliation conference. I do not want to hang the blame on anyone so the conference [words indistinct].

[Al-Jundi] Are you willing to reconcile with your adamant rival General Farah Aidid or are there still some outstanding differences?

[Mohamed] We discussed certain problems and found solutions for them. Other problems have not been discussed. I hope we will find solutions to these problems.

[Al-Jundi] Do you need more assistance from the Arab League and the United Nations within the framework of the national reconciliation conference?

[Mohamed] Somalia is an Arab nation. We always need assistance from our brothers in Arab states.

[Al-Jundi] How do you assess the amount of assistance you have received so far? Is it sufficient to establish institutions and lay down the foundation for a Somali infrastructure?

[Mohamed] I do not have exact figures on the assistance. I will tell you about it at another time. Now, I leave you. Thank you over the phone. God willing, Somalia's problem will be resolved.

OAU's Banana Calls For Peace Monitoring Force
MB1403151493 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1418 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Harare March 14 SAPA—The Organisation of African Unity should urgently form a peace monitoring mission to help solve civil strife on the African Continent, former Zimbabwe President Canaan Banana said on Sunday [14 March]. He said in an interview with the Zimbabwe national news agency ZIANA that the OAU had failed to intervene in conflicts in several countries because it had no machinery to solve them.

Banana is the OAU's eminent person for the Liberian conflict, where he intends to broker peace between the interim government of Amos Sawyer and Charles Taylor, leader of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, who launched a rebellion against the government in 1989.

He said it was hoped the OAU heads of state and government meeting for their annual summit in Cairo in June this year would approve the formation of a peace monitoring force. Banana said Africa was "in flames" with conflicts in almost every part of the continent. The most violent wars were in Angola where UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] was fighting the Angolan Government following the former's rejection of election results last September, Somalia where various clans have fought to reduce the country to rubble, and in Liberia where over 60,000 people have been killed and thousands displaced by a three-year civil war.

Banana said an OAU peace monitoring force was long overdue. "We have to put the machinery in place without further delay, and we hope the OAU will move with deliberate speed to set into motion a mechanism to enable the organisation to resolve conflicts," he said.

"We are concerned that the African Continent is in flames, and every part of Africa there is war and carnage.

The emphasis should be on prevention rather than management and resolution of conflicts."

He said African countries should move away from the Westminster political system of winner takes all. "We must aim for participatory democracy where both the opposition and the government will share in national affairs," he said.

Banana said politics based on tribal affinity was a recipe for disaster, and there was need for all ethnic groups in a country to feel a sense of belonging.

UN Mission for Rwandan Talks Off to Arusha
EA1403212493 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania External Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Dar es Salaam—A UN goodwill mission visiting the country to follow up on the Rwandan peace process travels to Arusha [Tanzania] tomorrow [15 March] to meet representatives of the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front [RPF]. The mission, which arrived in Dar es Salaam yesterday [13 March] after visiting Rwanda and Uganda, will also meet observers of the Rwandan peace talks in Arusha. Tanzania has been host to the Rwandan peace talks.

A statement issued by the UN Information Center in Dar es Salaam said the goodwill mission will travel to Addis Ababa [Ethiopia] from Arusha on Wednesday [17 March] to hold consultations with the OAU secretary general, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim. The delegation has been in the country for talks with government officials on the Rwandan conflict and the prospects of peace in the land-locked central African nation.

The peace talks are due to resume in Arusha on Wednesday [17 March]. In Rwanda itself, President Juvenal Habyarimana has welcomed any international move to bring peace to the country, a day after the UN Security Council called on the secretary general to look into establishing a United Nations presence in the country. Speaking after meeting senior military and political figures in Kigali, the Rwandan president also said there was no question of withdrawing any French troops from Rwanda without a full agreement between the two countries.

Chad**CNS Chairman Claims Troops 'Massacring Civilians'***AB1603171593 Paris AFP in English 1652 GMT 16 Mar 93*

[Text] Ndjamen, March 16 (AFP)—Government troops are massacring civilians in southern Chad, the chairman of the country's sovereign national conference (CNS), Adoum El Bongo, said Tuesday [16 March].

El Bongo told AFP that "wicked things" were happening, claiming that fighting between soldiers and rebels in the Gore region late in January had been used as a pretext for "measures out of all proportion."

Many villages were burned and 15,000 southern Chadians had fled last week to the Central African Republic, El Bongo said. He refused to give an estimate of the number of victims, but said, "We have the impression that this is an extermination bid."

El Bongo said that at the beginning of the national conference two months ago, a representative of Moise Kette, who went into the bush last year after being accused of plotting against President Idriss Deby, reported atrocities against southern civilians by the republican guard.

The Defence Ministry at once denied the claim, he said.

The conference president added that he had then proposed that a joint delegation from the CNS and the government go to the south to carry out an investigation, but this was refused.

El Bongo accused Deby of on the one hand backing the work of the national conference to sort out Chad's political future while on the other, allowing "ferocious repression, which does not spare the elderly, women or children."

"A week ago, there was a reinforcement of troops in the south," El-Bongo stated. He added that elements of the Republican Guard were not Chadians but came from Sudan and spoke none of "Chad's languages or French, but English."

Last month, Army Chief of Staff Mahamat Garfa said "order has been restored" in the south, adding that 28 rebels had been killed and six government troops wounded.

The government sent its own commission to several southern regions where unrest has been reported. When it came back, it gave no casualty toll and blamed the trouble on clashes between cattle-raisers and farmers, one delegate to the CNS said.

Tension has always run high in Chad, which has seen a series of civil wars, between the country's Arabised peoples and the mainly Christian or animist southerners.

Describes 'Tension' in South*LD1603213693 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 16 Mar 93*

[Text] There was a stormy debate today at the Chad National Conference, two months to the day after the beginning of the session. Tension in the south of the country eclipsed the problems of transitional institutions or the economy. The chairman of the conference has, in fact, made accusations regarding the massacre of civilians by the troops of President Deby. Maurice Adoum El Bongo spoke to Sosthene Gargoune:

[Begin recording] [Adoum El Bongo] It appears that certain zones have been prohibited—even to members of the French Army—in the region of Sarh, but a few days ago the inhabitants were very, very worried because there was a gathering of the military of the Republican Guard in the region. This greatly concerned the population. It worried them all the more because these members of the Republican Guard rushed the market, wrecked the whole of the market, and did whatever they pleased.

[Gargoune] So now you have asked the conference for a joint commission to be dispatched?

[Adoum El Bongo] No. I believe it is hopeless to dwell on this. When I saw the head of state about two weeks ago concerning this matter, I came up against a blunt refusal. The president believed that it was not worth the trouble to press for the dispatch of a joint commission to the south. So I believe that, if I see that troubles are continuing in the south, then the only thing I could perhaps attempt to achieve is the formation here—on the spot in Ndjamen—of a delegation of the conference to go and discuss the matter in person with the president. I am no longer pressing for the dispatch of a joint commission to the southern region. [end recording]

We should add that, according to Adoum El Bongo, 15,000 people have currently taken refuge in the Central African Republic.

Rwanda**Government, RPF Peace Talks Resume in Arusha***EA1603171193 Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique Rwandaise in French 1115 GMT 16 Mar 93*

[Text] Peace negotiations between the Rwandan Government and the Rwandan Patriotic Front [RPF] resumed in Arusha, Tanzania, today. They are due to center on the integration of RPF forces into the Rwandan Army, the return home of Rwandan refugees, the situation of those displaced by war and harmonizing the agreements already signed between the two sides with the Rwandan Constitution.

The government delegation to the negotiations is led by Mr. Boniface Ngulinzira, the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, while the RPF delegation is led by Pasteur Bizimungu.

Parties on Verge of 'Breakthrough'

*AB1603200493 Paris AFP in English 1927 GMT
16 Mar 93*

[Text] Arusha, Tanzania, March 16 (AFP)—The Rwandan Government and Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebels have started discussing modalities and mechanisms for forming a national army to comprise RPF forces if Kigali reaffirmed its commitment to all pacts and protocols reached so far in their negotiations.

Tanzanian Foreign Minister Joseph Rwigasira told AFP here that after a closed door session on Tuesday [16 March] morning and a plenary session in the afternoon, the two sides were on the verge of a breakthrough and had agreed to hold further private consultations to find a solution on formation of the national army. Rwigasira said Rwandan Foreign Minister Boniface Ngulinzira had assured both the RPF and foreign observers of his government's commitment to protocols reached in Arusha and provisions of a joint communique issued in Dar es Salaam two weeks ago after a three-day high-level contact meeting on the revival of their stalled talks.

The two delegations, accompanied by observers from Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Belgium, Burundi, France, Uganda, United States and Zaire, will continue their private consultations on Wednesday, said Rwigasira, who chaired the talks on behalf of peace process facilitator President Ali Hassan Mwinyi.

The RPF had earlier demanded assurances from the Kigali government on its commitment to respecting the joint communique after President Juvenal Habyarimana denied at the weekend that French troops would be withdrawn from Rwanda as agreed in Dar es Salaam a fortnight ago. Under the agreement, all foreign forces were to be withdrawn from Rwanda within eight days, effective March 17 and that they were to be replaced by a neutral international force under OAU and United Nations supervision.

MOG Issues Communique on Patriotic Front Maps

*EA1603181793 Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la
Republique Rwandaise in French 1115 GMT 16 Mar 93*

[Text] A communique from the Military Observer Group [MOG] has just reached us which says that the MOG has just completed the identification and reproduction of maps of Rwandan Armed Forces' positions.

Following consultations between the two sides and in order to safeguard the mutual confidence between the two sides, the MOG undertook to identify on maps the RPF's positions before it returns to its previous positions [sentence as

heard]. The RPF started returning to its previous positions on 15 March, under the MOG's supervision. The withdrawal will end on 17 March at 1800.

The MOG, which is ready to do everything to restore peace in Rwanda, according to the communique, continues to call on all the Rwandan people to back the peace process already under way.

Zaire

Deliberations Continue at Conclave; Commissions Report

*AB1505221393 Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French 1800
GMT 15 Mar 93*

[Except] On the political scene, the deliberations continued today at the conclave, the political meeting called by the presidency of the Republic. According to one of our correspondents at the meeting, the deliberations entered their decisive stage at the National Palace today. This morning's plenary session called for the presentation of the reports of the four commissions. The issues were closely examined. We have details. Here is Etenda Bafenda Ndjagandjaga, who just returned from the National Palace. Good evening, Etenda.

[Etenda] Yes, good evening. The commission on the electoral timetable was the first to present its report. It emphasized the need to organize elections within a short time so that the country can finally enter the Third Republic and finish with this transition, which will soon be three-years old. According to the commission, it will, all the same, be necessary to [break in transmission] it is obvious, the constitutional referendum as the first operation, followed by the presidential elections, then provincial and legislative elections, which will be organized concurrently, and then municipal and local elections. This is for the commission on the electoral timetable.

The second commission to present its report, as of broadcast time, was the commission which examined the harmonization of clauses that will govern the transition. I would like to explain that the deliberations of this plenary session are being held behind closed doors. So, we were not able to enter the hall. The press release that will be issued by the first secretary rapporteur will certainly provide more details on the modification or the harmonization of the existing texts. Already, indiscreet people are saying that five organs, namely, the presidency, the Parliament, the High Council of the Republic, the government, the courts, and the tribunals will function during the transition. In view of the importance of the issues to be examined, I bet that all the commissions will not be able to present their reports today.

Kenya

Moi Calls For Strengthening of Common Markets

EA1603180293 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1000 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today called for the strengthening of Africa's regional common markets saying it was the only way of pulling the continent out of the current economic hardships. Noting that dependence upon foreign donors had proved to be frustrating, President Moi said African leaders had to reappraise themselves.

He was addressing African envoys accredited to Kenya when they paid a courtesy call at State House, Nairobi.

President Moi pointed out the structural adjustment program prescribed for Africa by the donor agencies ostensibly to improve economy, had had the opposite effect. He said the conditions had actually hit hard the common man, costing stability and threatened to scare away the prospective investors. The president said leaders are the most competent to talk and give the correct picture about their respective countries. He reiterated that Africa would only be developed by Africans themselves. The continent, he pointed out, had vast resources, adding that what was required was the means to tap and harness that wealth to the development process.

President Moi said he recalled with nostalgia the joy and hope that accompanied the initial decolonization of most African countries beginning with Sudan in 1956. He observed that wrong approach to political and economic issues brought about calamities and sufferings to the people. He said he was sorry for such countries as Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mozambique, and Angola and wondered for what cause are the people dying. Noting that those who fought for the decolonization of the continent were fired by a deep sense of nationalism, President Moi said the young had to be retrained to embrace the same lost ideals.

Noting that tribalism was the main cause of the problems facing Africa, President Moi said the issue had to be addressed more seriously adding that without peace even the basic needs could not be catered for. Reiterating his commitment to peace, President Moi urged different factions in Somalia to put the interest of the people first and meet to restore order in their country. He called on the educated in Africa to come down from their ivory towers and understand the aspirations of the common people they are expected to serve.

On the clashes in the Rift Valley, President Moi said they were politically instigated. Noting that the citizens had [been] prevailed upon to exist in peace and harmony, President Moi said it was not in the interest of the government to do anything that might jeopardize its position.

Somalia

SNA Spokesman Says UNITAF Helped Morgan Seize Kismaayo

EA1603193393 Mogadishu Radio Mogadishu in Somali 1700 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] A spokesman for the Somali National Alliance [SNA] has disclosed that troops led by [Mohamed Sa'id Hirsi] Morgan equipped with technicals, invaded Kismaayo again today, 16 March, inflicting death and destruction on the innocent residents and capturing the town. The spokesman added that the capture of Kismaayo by Morgan was facilitated by the Unified Task Force [UNITAF] and, in particular, the U.S. troops based in Kismaayo.

The veiled reports being issued of late by the UNITAF spokesman, Colonel (Fred Bergen), to the international media to the effect that disturbances would take place was a pointer to the impending capture of Kismaayo. The SNA spokesman pointed out that it was amazing and unfortunate that this incident could take place at a time when the Somali reconciliation conference was taking place in Addis Ababa. He said this incident was designed to destroy the conference by handing over Kismaayo to the defense minister and son-in-law of Siad Barre, criminal Morgan. In conclusion, the SNA spokesman underlined that the SNA and its supporters would never tolerate such heinous crimes.

Kismaayo Chief Jess Reconfirms View on Morgan, UN Role

BR1503163393 Brussels LE SOIR in French 15 Mar 93 p 9

[Interview with warlord Omar Jess by Veronique Kiesel in Kismaayo; date not given: "Belgians Have a Favorable Reputation in Somali Port"]

[Text] The Somali warlord leaves no doubt: General Morgan is one with whom you fight, not talk.

[Kiesel] You are one of the warlords in the Kismaayo region. Although you succeeded in chasing off your enemy, General Morgan, who came from the ranks of former president Siad Barre in May 1992, his troops have succeeded in regaining three-quarters of the city since 22 February. What is your reaction?

[Jess] Morgan is public enemy number one in this country. As defense minister under the old regime he conducted civil war and caused all of Somalia's current problems by laying the country waste. Furthermore, he does not really control Kismaayo today. His control is artificial. The Belgian and American troops involved in operation "Restore Hope" forbid us to defend ourselves. So Morgan's men managed to slip back into Kismaayo.

[Kiesel] So you resent the Belgian and American troops?

[Jess] It was the Americans who were in command at the time. You must not forget that while Morgan served as minister he managed to weave a web of international ties both with the political powers that be and with the media. By presenting Morgan as the man of the moment, his power and credibility have been greatly exaggerated. It is simply untrue. Morgan is a criminal from the old regime and has virtually no support in this region.

[Kiesel] Nevertheless, would you not like to see the departure of the Belgian military?

[Jess] No. They are not to blame. The operations in Kismaayo have been badly prepared. We had hoped that UNITAF would restabilize the area and provide some security, but the situation has only worsened in that the people who originally chased us out have returned. I have lost 300 of my men. Nevertheless, the Belgians are reliable and do not interfere with domestic politics. They take care of security and the food convoys and have a favorable reputation among the population.

[Kiesel] Have you surrendered all your arms to UNITAF?

[Jess] We have none of our 100 heavy technical vehicles. However, there are some arms caches in the city and even more in the surrounding countryside. The priority is always the same: to send Morgan packing.

[Kiesel] Six months ago, dozens of people died of hunger every day in Kismayu. Today, everybody has something to eat, there are large stockpiles of food, and yet every day people die and are wounded in confrontations. Who is responsible for unleashing such violence?

[Jess] Those who violated the ceasefire and UNITAF, which let them get away with it.

[Kiesel] When the Americans and Belgians arrived in Kismayu in late December, they found several mass graves at a time you had the military upper hand in the region.

[Jess] There were terrible hostilities before UNITAF arrived. But I never organized a systematic massacre. Never.

[Kiesel] This Monday, in Addis Ababa, there will be a large reconciliation conference in aid of Somalia. Do you plan on being there?

[Jess] The situation here is too serious for me to leave before it has returned to normal. So I will not be going to Addis Ababa. Having said that, I am optimistic and truly believe that this conference could get things moving. In particular, a transitional government should be set up for the southwestern and northern parts of the country. As for me, I believe that the current situation is rather confused and that elections should be organized soon so the population can show in whom it has confidence.

[Kiesel] And you think that Kismaayo has confidence in you?

[Jess] Not just in Kismaayo, but the entire Juba valley.

[Kiesel] Would you consent to negotiate with Morgan?

[Jess] I am not much of a pacifist, but as far as Morgan is concerned, criminal that he is, there is no question of cooperation. The only thing to do is fight him.

Uganda

'Rebels' Abduct District Administrator, Kill 3

AB1603144493 Paris AFP in English 1208 GMT
16 Mar 93

[Text] Kampala, March (AFP)—Rebels of the Uganda Christian Democratic Army (UCDA) have abducted the district administrator of the northwestern district of Nebi and killed three other people travelling with him, police said Tuesday.

The administrator, Charles Owuor, was kidnapped in a rebel ambush on Monday [15 March] while driving along a road in Machison Falls Game Park 340 kilometres (200 miles) northwest of the capital Kampala, director of internal security Jim Muhkwezi said. Security personnel have been sent to the area to search for Owuor.

Although the Ugandan Army has succeeded in reducing rebel activity in the northwestern Uganda, rebel remnants still launch occasional attacks on travellers in the area.

In January the UCDA, who say their mission is to "restore the kingdom of God", kidnapped a British citizen, Jamie Downing, but released him unharmed after a week in captivity.

The UCDA was formed in 1988 after the defeat by government troops of the Holy Spirit Movement of Priestess Alice Lakwena, now exiled in Kenya. The movement is led by one of Lakwena's former aides Joseph Kony.

Debt Rescheduling Agreement With FRG Reached

LD1503120793 Hamburg DPA in German 1109 GMT
15 Mar 93

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The German Government has concluded a debt rescheduling agreement with Uganda. Of a total of about 24.5 million Deutsche marks [DM] in debts, which stem exclusively from trade credits granted by the former GDR, DM 1.5 million will be waived, and another DM 1.5 will be extended until the year 2015. For the largest share of DM 21.5 million, which is to be paid back by November 1993 at the latest, an extension until the end of 1994 has been agreed upon, the Federal Finance Ministry stated in Bonn today.

Meyer, Ramaphosa Agree on Need To Avoid Civil War

MB1503124193 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 15 Mar 93 pp 1, 2

[By Political Staff]

[Text] Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer and ANC [African National Congress] secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday it was vital to prevent civil war breaking out in the country.

REUTER reported as saying all relevant political groups to the constitutional negotiations agreed on the need to ensure peace prevailed.

The two men were at Kyalami race track north of Johannesburg to present the Formula 1 Grand Prix motor racing awards.

Ramaphosa said South Africa's social fabric was falling apart. However, he thought civil war was avoidable.

"We have one of the highest rates of unemployment, with 7-million people out of work. The crime rate is rocketing. The (violence) death rate has become unspeakable. The economy is in the doldrums. We must proceed with all speed to our first elections for the new SA [South Africa]," he said.

Ramaphosa said ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Inkatha president Mangosuthu Buthelezi would hold their first meeting in two years "certainly not much later than the end of April".

Meyer said the country's first multiracial elections should take place within 12 months. Ramaphosa said he would prefer a quicker timetable.

"Our objective is to start building a nation. Apartheid destroyed our nation. A government of national unity is needed to underpin our progress," Meyer said.

And in Richmond, Natal, Mandela yesterday told whites they had no cause to fear transition to black majority rule.

"The white community in this country is going to play a pivotal role," Mandela told about 200 people at a public meeting.

"I don't want you to support the ANC, I want you to support the peace process," he said after meeting white and Indian business leaders at the end of a three-day tour of Natal.

Meanwhile, both Inkatha and the ANC renewed calls for peace at the weekend.

Mandela yesterday told hundreds of supporters to engage Inkatha members in peace talks. "Go to Inkatha supporters and tell them we want to stay in peace with you," he said.

Mandela said violence should be avoided, adding defence did not mean killing innocent people in the name of revenge.

Buthelezi also called for peace and conciliation after Saturday's planned meeting between himself and Mandela was cancelled "for security reasons".

They were due to meet at the funeral of six children gunned down in an recent ambush near Table Mountain in the Natal Midlands.

Buthelezi, who was addressing the Mboyi funeral for the children, said "now is the time to embark on a healing process and to reach out in search of conciliation".

Buthelezi urged his supporters not to avenge the deaths of the six children and said the spate of ambushes in the Table Mountain area which left 20 people dead must not result in further bloodshed.

Meanwhile, the Concerned South Africans Group (Cosag) of right-wing organisations and homeland leaders reported a new sense of solidarity after weekend talks in Ciskei.

Cosag spokesman Rowan Cronje said agreement on all the main issues relating to the negotiations process had been reached.

"To say that we are delighted with the progress made and the spirit of solidarity achieved here is to understate the matter," Cronje said.

Cosag members, including representatives from the CP [Conservative Party] and Inkatha, were convinced that regional powers and boundaries as well as the constitution should be agreed upon within the multiparty planning phase, Cronje said.

U.S. Reportedly Requests Mercenary Recruitment for MPLA

MB1603134393 Pretoria DIE AFRIKANER in Afrikaans 10 Mar 93 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed comment: "Pik Involved With Mercenaries?"]

[Text] The recruiting of white South Africans to fight for the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] government in Angola is, according to information received, enjoying more than just the silent approval of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pik Botha.

For a long time now the government has been aware of the recruitment of South Africans previously engaged in military service. This has taken place since the beginning of the year and could have been prevented by the government in the early stages.

The fact that these recruits were not prevented from leaving the country is an indication of the De Klerk government's attitude. If an admission by military

authorities did not expose this controversial practice and cause such a sensation then it would still have continued unhindered.

More than 400 people have already been recruited. The insulting spectacle involving South Africans who hire themselves out to communists, as well as the situation where Boer fights Boer in a foreign war, is directly attributed to Mr. Botha's activities—a common view in defense circles.

The Americans, who openly support the MPLA government in Luanda, depended on Mr. Botha to persuade UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] resistance movement leader Jonas Savimbi to accept the results of the corrupt election held a few months ago, in which the MPLA candidate Eduardo dos Santos was elected president.

Pik was in Angola and he spoke to Mr. Savimbi but since the handing over of southwest Africa to the communists his influence over Savimbi is minimal. Pik could not deliver the political goods he promised the Americans and the result of this was to try to compensate for his failure by allowing MPLA recruitment. The American Department of Foreign Affairs, under pressure from American oil companies, had apparently made a special request to Mr. Botha.

The recruiting of mercenaries by the communist government in Luanda is increasing dramatically. Apart from white mercenaries being recruited in South Africa and in France, there is a team of MPLA recruiters in Katanga and Zaire, and the Southwest African People's Organization government in Windhoek has been persuaded by promises of finance to make troops available.

The entire transaction is being financed by the American Chevron oil company, who fears that a UNITA-government in Luanda will insist that American oil concessions in Angola be renegotiated.

The military need of the MPLA government in Luanda, who cannot get enough blacks to fight on its side, indicates just how unrepresentative of the Angolan population the communist government in Luanda really is.

It is a puppet government put in Luanda by the Americans, originally with the Russians, to see to their interests—not the interests of Angola. Additional mining concessions given by the MPLA government to American interests, just after the mock election, has increased American concern and for this reason Mr. Pik Botha is being pressed to help them by allowing the recruiting of mercenaries.

Military Expert Says MPLA, UNITA Recruit Mercenaries

MB1503174493 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1100 GMT 15 Mar 93

[From the "Channel Africa Report" program]

[Text] The Angolan Government has reportedly recaptured the oil city of Soyo in the north of the country. This military success has once again focussed attention on whether mercenaries are fighting alongside government and, or UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] forces. Military expert and writer on African warfare Al Venter says experienced South African mercenaries have been recruited by both parties in the Angolan civil war. He speaks to Steyn de Preuter.

[Begin recording] [Venter] I don't think the numbers are very big. Maybe a few hundred. I don't think you have as much as a thousand at this stage. It could get more substantive than that because Savimbi has got the resources of the diamond fields and he's using diamonds to pay for a lot of his needs ... arms. He's even acquired a few helicopters, I believe, whereas the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] government has the long-term benefits for those who believe that they will win in the end ... of the oil fields ... and they will pay ultimately ... oil, three or four times what they would normally pay on a promissory note.

[De Preuter] Do those mercenaries make a difference? Can they make an impact on the civil war? Can they change the outcome?

[Venter] I'm not sure they can. You've got a few hundred mercenaries on both sides and Angola is an immense country. It's one of the biggest countries in Africa. Its distances are vast ... in terms of thousands of kilometers rather than hundreds of kilometers. You've got a population ... [changes thought] it's very thinly populated ... 10 million people of whom about 2 million are carrying arms ... have in the past carried arms. And consequently, although they've had some effect on Huambo and they've helped in the Soyo offensive, these are isolated places although they're very important victories, of course. But you've got another dozen, or twenty cities and towns and areas that are under siege or are immediately being fought for at the moment. You've got railway lines, you've got ports, you've got a coast line. You're going to need tens of thousands of mercenaries and not even the Angolan Government with all its resources of oil, or Savimbi with the diamonds, can afford that sort of expense because he needs backup for these people. He's got to have casualty evacuation facilities, medical R & R across the borders. He's got to bring them in the country and take them out again so you never talk about more than maybe a thousand, at a maximum 2,000, and that's a lot.

[De Preuter] So you rather think they are being utilized as elite troops?

[Venter] Yes, in shock points, like the taking of Huambo or perhaps an onslaught onto strategic installations like the water supply of Luanda or the electricity supply of Lobito, or of course, the oil fields as we have seen.

[De Preuter] Or possibly the assassination of Jonas Savimbi as it is being alleged by UNITA?

[Venter] I'm not so sure that Savimbi is going to let anybody come that close to him. Bear in mind he's been fighting now for, what ... since the 60's. That's close on 30 years. And a lot of people have wanted him dead for most of this time. The Portuguese wanted him dead. They tried. The MPLA government ... they tried. So he's got his work cut out for him. He's pretty shrewd. He's a good operator. I've seen him at work. He keeps himself to himself. He's surrounded by his family tribal-based bodyguard. Nobody knows where he goes from one day or one month to the next, or where he will be next week this time. That's very, very difficult. He does show himself but he doesn't show himself to be fraternizing with his troops for the very reason that I mentioned. [end recording]

ANC, IFP Supporters Sign Peace Pact in Natal

MB1603143493 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1400 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] About 200 ANC [African National Congress] and Inkatha supporters held an historic peace meeting in Ndwedwe. As Craig Doonan reports, the meeting held intended to establish a permanent peace pact in the war-torn district.

[Doonan] Although today's meeting didn't result in the establishment of a permanent peace forum, it has been hailed as a success. Supporters of the ANC and IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] have agreed that an interim Local Dispute Resolution Committee [LDRC] continue functioning. Delegates to the forum said there's still work to be done before they can lodge a permanent LDRC. Officials from both sides said they want to ensure the launch of a peace committee is a success, and they have arranged another meeting toward this end next week.

Meanwhile, ANC and IFP supporters sat next to each other at Ndwedwe's magistrate court, and have heard their leaders' plea for peace and reconciliation.

ANC Views Pretoria Stance on Bophuthatswana Reincorporation

MB1703100293 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 0600 GMT 93

[Text] The ANC [African National Congress] says it's disturbed by the government's position that Bophuthatswana should be treated as a special case—Bantustan, and not be subject to an agreement on reincorporation. The organization says the lengthy discussions on the future of the TBVC [Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, Ciskei] territories have all recognized that these artificially created bodies should become part of a new South Africa.

The ANC says there can be no resolution of the South African conflict until all the TBVC territories are reincorporated. The ANC says tension in Bophuthatswana continues to rise and, as they put it, the license to kill, practiced by Bophuthatswana's security forces, is pushing people's tolerance to the limit.

The ANC says the Pretoria regime should, without delay, repeal all laws which give independence to the TBVC territories and restore South African citizenship to all. Meanwhile international observers missions in South Africa say they are gravely concerned at the escalation of violence between the authorities and inhabitants of Bophuthatswana. Missions representing the UN, OAU, EC and British Commonwealth have called on the Bophuthatswana government to repeal its Internal Security Act. The missions say the act is at the root of the consistent and flagrant violation of human rights in the territory. The observers have called on the homeland authorities to allow all political parties and interest groups to express themselves freely.

CP Leader Cites No Support for Afrikaner Abdication

MB1703122393 Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans 12 Mar 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "New Dispensation for CP Unavoidable"]

[Text] A new dispensation for the CP [Conservative Party] is inevitable, but whether the new South Africa as envisaged by the National Party [NP] is the answer, is subject to doubt, CP leader Andries Treurnicht said.

Within Cosag's [Concerned South Africans Group] ranks—which is currently expanding—there is strong opposition to the NP and ANC's [African National Congress] proposals for a new South Africa, Dr. Treurnicht said during discussion on a private members bill.

In Cosag's ranks, there is a strong emphasis on states, and not only on regions, and certain black leaders are even talking about the self-determination right of nations, in addition to the self-determination right of groups.

Cosag is a very significant organization which can attract many people to its ideas. It is not true that it is only now that the CP is starting to talk to blacks. It has been doing it for long, but it is now particularly finding convergence with black leaders who rejected Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa], he said.

The ANC has its eyes on the whole country. The ANC says there has to be one government for South Africa, the self-governing states, and the TBVC [Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, Ciskei] states. The ANC wants to try and destroy any opposition party—including the NP. It talks about a government of national unity, but wants to govern alone, Dr. Treurnicht said.

With one broad voter's corps, and a constitution for everyone, and with central government, it would be regretful for the self-determination right of nations and for the independent states.

The government is hinting at support from the CP in an election. The NP will not get CP support for the abdication of the Afrikaner, Dr. Treurnicht said. Kuruman CP MP Jan Hoon said it would be unwise, undemocratic, and presumptuous of the CP to sign documents now without taking into consideration and testing the will of its own people, and those of others.

He said the CP measures are "to give shape to the modern policy of a party" which will bring and peace and prosperity in the country.

The geographic boundaries between nations will be determined by a CP government or the CP in consultation with the government of the day.

If the CP can convince the government to accept the principle of self-determination for its own people in its own fatherland, then the CP and the government would be jointly responsible for negotiating and finalizing the fatherland's boundaries, he said.

The nations which want to get a similar freedom, can go about it in the same way to determine their boundaries. The CP's point of departure is that history has already identified the regions for the various nations through accords, conquests, occupation and agreements or statutory measures.

The CP will at all times encourage and promote majority white occupation of its region. Meaningful physical planning and measures will be undertaken to bring about the biggest possible occupation by a nation on its own land.

Botha Addresses Black Leaders in Northern Transvaal

MB1403081493 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1800 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The Transvaal leader of the National Party [NP], Mr. Pik Botha, says the NP will accord traditional leaders their rightful place in society. Addressing chiefs at Tzaneen in the northern Transvaal, Mr. Botha said the leaders should also have a say in determining their own future.

Mr. Botha, who is normally the National Party's front-runner in elections, was sent to the northern Transvaal by State President F. W. de Klerk, to address the black leaders of the region. More than 140 leaders, including Gazankulu cabinet ministers, attended the gathering. Today's meeting could be regarded as the start of the National Party's election campaign for the country's first multiracial elections to take place next year. Northern Transvaal is one of the regions which the National Party regards as a large potential support base.

Mr. Botha told his audience today that apartheid had been a mistake and that black people in South Africa have been humiliated by it. He said he understood that blacks had grievances because of the injustices of apartheid.

National Party Rejects ANC Request for Debate

MB1703121493 Cape Town DIE BURG in Afrikaans 12 Mar 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "ANC Again Wants To Tackle NP on TV"]

[Text] The National Party [NP] and the African National Congress [ANC] want to tackle each other in front of TV cameras again after the recent row over the TV debate on the position of colored people.

Our political staff reports that chief director of the NP's Federal Information Service, Piet Coetzer, said yesterday the ANC is trying desperately to force another "colored debate" with the NP on television.

The NP's view is that such "racist debates" belong to the past. "All South Africans' futures are indissolubly bound together. It is high time that policy against policy be instituted." For that reason the NP has invited the ANC to debate economic issues on TV. The NP has no objections if the ANC brings Dr. Boesak on the field, but the NP participant "will not be appointed on the basis of race."

National Party Facing Tough Election in Western Cape

MB1403094593 Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR in English 14 Mar 93 p 17

[Report by David Breier: "Nat election blunders"]

[Text] Danger signs are flashing for the National Party [NP—Nats] in its Western Cape stronghold in South Africa's first nonracial elections due within a year.

The Nats have been routed time and again by strong African National Congress [ANC] organisation in the Western Cape, the NP's greatest hope for capturing at least one region in one-man-one-vote elections.

"The danger signals are showing for the NP if it can't hold its own at the propaganda level. Its support base mainly in the coloured group will be eroded," says Stellenbosch University's political science head Hennie Kotze.

This week the Nats were routed yet again, this time at Atlantis where the ANC held a high profile demo and captured the limelight from a visit by the State President's wife, Marike de Klerk.

Local Nats admit they handed a propaganda victory to the ANC on a plate by failing to organise any demonstration in support of Mrs de Klerk.

This follows the NP's recent humiliation at the live SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] Agenda programme, where the ANC bussed in flag-waving supporters who outnumbered the Nats.

Last year the ANC broke up FW de Klerk's visit to Mitchells Plain, which was poorly organised by the local Nats.

The ANC has commissioned a survey which showed that De Klerk's support among the coloured majority in the Western Cape fell from a high of 78 percent in April last year to 67 percent late last year.

The Human Sciences Research Council has also revealed a downward trend for the Nats among all population groups over the past year. It found coloured support for the Nats had fallen to 66 percent. This is still overwhelmingly larger than coloured support for the ANC, which has risen to six percent from a very low base.

The coloured vote will be vital in the Western Cape, where it forms about 60 percent of the electorate compared to roughly 20 percent each for whites and blacks.

Kotze points out the Nats have no local leadership figure to compare to ANC Western Cape chairman Allan Boesak, who still pulled poplar support and was a good organiser.

Kotze believes the Western Cape is the only region in the country where the Nats stand a good chance of winning. In the Northern Cape the NP and ANC are "more or less equal" he says.

In the rest of the country the Nats face major defeats against the ANC, while the Inkatha Freedom Party is a major factor in Natal.

NP To Consult Shamans To Help Attract Blacks

MB1403112793 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 14 Mar 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "NP to consult sangomas"]

[Text] The National Party [NP] has decided to consult sangomas [shamans] and other cultural experts in a search for a new symbol that will broaden its appeal among blacks.

It is also set to drop the colour orange as one of its official party colours.

The NP, which is anxious to distance itself from its apartheid image, has undertaken an extensive review of its colours and symbols. The aim is to adopt new colours and symbols that are seen to be keeping with Africa for the forthcoming all-race elections.

A secret report by experts who probed the most suitable "logo" for adoption by the NP suggests that the proposed new symbols and colours need to be bounced off anthropologists, indunas [village headman], sangomas and other cultural experts to ensure they are credible and acceptable in an African context.

These people could, in a few sentences, give the traditional deep-rooted meanings of symbols within their cultural milieu, the report states.

For instance, to whites, an owl is a symbol of wisdom. To certain blacks an owl represents "the one who kills during the night".

The report says it was found nationally that orange was probably the most unpopular colour. Of all the parties in South Africa, only the NP has orange as a party colour.

In a survey of African countries it was found that red and green were the preferred colours in about equal proportions, followed by yellow.

The report says South Africa's national colours will change—and so will those of the NP.

Sources also said that, although expert advice was against changing the name "NP" during the run-up to the election because it could be construed as "a ploy", the name "New National Party" may be used in the interim.

Government Bans Trade With Former Yugoslav Republics

MB1603133893 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1100 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] The government has banned the import or export of goods to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia comprising Serbia and Montenegro in terms of a notice in the Government Gazette. Deputy Trade and Industry Minister David Graaff told our political staff that the decision was taken as a result of a United Nations resolution imposing sanctions against the two former Yugoslav republics. He said South Africa, which enjoyed observer status at the United Nations, would discontinue all trade with the two states due to continuing Serb aggression toward Muslim communities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Graaff said Yugoslavia had imported vast quantities of steel from South Africa, and that the export of any metals, minerals, or other products to Serbia and Montenegro would be illegal until the Department of Trade and Industry lifted the embargo.

OAU Mission Head Seeks More International Observers

MB1203124293 Johannesburg SABA in English 1057 GMT 12 Mar 93

[By Enrico Kemp]

[Text] Bellville Mar 12 SABA—South Africa deserved a much larger contingent of international observers for its first non-racial election, Organisation of African Unity mission head Joseph Legwaila said on Friday [12 March].

He told a "free and fair elections" conference in Bellville, near Cape Town, that South Africa was a much larger country which faced far greater problems than Namibia in the run-up to its 1990 election.

"The sheer fragility of the process in Angola should indicate how great the need is in South Africa."

Delegates from all parliamentary and extra-parliamentary groups are attending the conference, organised by the centre of development studies at the University of the Western Cape, the Matla Trust and the US-based National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

Several international specialists are also due to address the three-day conference.

Mr. Legwaila said if elections were to be free and fair all political parties had to have access and the right to campaign in every part of the country.

While the democratic process could not be held hostage by violence it would become impossible to hold truly free and fair elections if violence and intimidation became so rife that free political activity was precluded.

Mr. Legwaila said political parties should ensure tolerance among their members and punish transgressors. A code of conduct for political parties had to be observed and statistics showing compliance had to be published regularly.

The electoral law governing elections had to be democratic and internationally acceptable, particularly if international observers were required to validate the election result.

"What must be sought is an election which is as good as that held anywhere else in the world. There can be no election by African or third world standards."

Mr. Legwaila said the role of the security forces in safeguarding the electoral process would be crucial.

"One would be a fool not to realise that the forces of law and order in South Africa inspire little trust in the populace and in the international community.

"If the forces of law and order cannot be trusted and are even accused of instigating some violence, how can they be expected to ensure law and order during an election?"

Police Confiscate Rifles in Eastern Transvaal

MB1203124093 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Police in the eastern Transvaal have confiscated 18 AK-47s from a vehicle they stopped on the Nelspruit-Komatipoort road. The police also found 25 full magazines, a hand grenade and 2,000 AK-47 rounds in the vehicle. Five men were arrested. Four men were arrested last Friday in Nelspruit after the police discovered 14 AKs in their vehicle.

17 Mar Review of Press Editorials, Commentaries *MB1703133493*

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Criticism of Transport Minister Reaction To Department Corruption—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 17 March in a page 16 editorial says "a senior official of the Auditor-General's office has found evidence of widespread corruption in the Department of Transport. THE STAR has published details of these allegations because it believes that in doing so we are serving the public interest." "Needless to say, Transport Minister Piet Welgemoed has not approached the issue with assurances that instant action will be taken. Instead he questioned whether the reports on which THE STAR's articles have been based actually exist." "This hardly speaks of urgency on the Minister's part. It is also worrying that a search warrant was issued on the same day that THE STAR asked him for additional comment about aspects of the Serfontein [former assistant chief auditor] investigation. Is Welgemoed dealing with a potential crisis in his department, or merely concerned with silencing the messenger."

BUSINESS DAY

Budget Cannot Be Delayed in Anticipation of Political Change—Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 17 March in a page 10 editorial says the budget to be presented by Finance Minister Derek Keys on 17 March "is unlikely to be greeted with broad uncritical enthusiasm. That, however, will have been the least of Finance Minister Derek Keys's concerns while he was managing the Budget's preparation. His awareness will have been of his responsibility to underpin South Africa's longer-term economic interests rather than to attempt to satisfy a myriad of populist demands." South Africa "cannot afford a financial holding exercise ahead of the installation of a new government. Nor can planning for next year's Budget, which will start almost immediately after the presentation of this year's, be delayed in anticipation of political change."

SOWETAN

Investigation Needed Into Deaths in Police Custody—"Nine people have died in police custody this year in ways that cast a grim and chilling light on what is currently happening to those under arrest," declares a page 6 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 17 March. An investigation is "becoming urgent." SOWETAN is "getting upset by the aggressive manner in which some policemen are behaving lately. We do acknowledge that crime has become all too common and that firm police action is necessary. Finally, we would advise the police to be just as aggressive and effective when they deal with political killings."

Angola

Dos Santos on Arms Supply, Alleged U.S. Peace Plan

LD1703002293 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 2048 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Studio interview with Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos by correspondent Maria Elisa in Luanda; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Elisa] Mr. President, the bloody events of late October, now known as the Battle of Luanda, have deprived UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] of some of its best political cadres. Now the fact is, Mr. President, there can be no democracy without opposition, and without cadres for such an opposition. To that extent, does it not seem to you that the events in question were highly detrimental to attaining for Angola the peace that you claim to desire?

[Dos Santos] I see high detriment to all the steps taken by Dr. Savimbi and the UNITA leadership with a view to rejecting the result of elections regarded by the UN as generally free and fair, and also in all the steps taken to prepare a new war, which finally broke out. So the Luanda episode of late October and early November was just another chapter of a foreseeable war that we are still experiencing in Angola.

We fully agree with the proposition that there can be no democracy without an opposition. On the other hand, it is equally true that you cannot practice democracy with armed political parties. UNITA is an armed party. And this is precisely why we continue to insist that Mr. Savimbi and UNITA must demilitarize the war-mongering wing of their organization so as to conform with the universal rules of democracy and accept the rules of the free democratic game in progress in our country.

[Elisa] As you know, Mr. President, the government and UNITA have totally different versions of the bloody events of late October and early November. Some of the presumed protagonists, Dr. Savimbi first and foremost, deny any plotting of a coup d'etat which the MPLA claimed to be in the offing. [passage omitted] Credible foreign newspapers—which in fact might appear to support the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]—such as THE GUARDIAN and THE INDEPENDENT, wrote of a bloodbath against UNITA and of ethnic cleansing carried out by the MPLA, and reported seeing many thousands of dead UNITA soldiers piled up in Luanda's cemeteries. None of this, Mr. President, would seem to reflect a situation in which UNITA and UNITA alone had armed itself and was plotting a coup.

[Dos Santos] Well, that is the picture conveyed by a certain section of the press outside the country.

[Elisa] But it is a believable section of the press, Mr. President.

[Dos Santos] It remains to be seen if it reflects the reality of the fact. Of course, in war there is destruction; people are killed and so on. And when in a given war there are dead on only one side, that means that the side without losses is broadly victorious. Well, as you can see that is not Angola's situation at the moment. Parts of the country have been occupied by UNITA by force, while the Government exercises its sovereignty in others. Meanwhile, it is not fair to say that there has been ethnic cleansing, or manhunts, or massacres, because it was not just Mr. Salupeto Pena, or Mr. Ben-Ben, or other UNITA cadres who have lost their lives: Thousands and thousands of Angolans are dying every day everywhere in Angola in a war that we have not sought. [passage omitted]

[Elisa] [passage omitted] As you know, Mr. President, UNITA sustained a much higher number of losses than the MPLA. This would not appear to reflect the notion that UNITA was arming itself for a coup d'etat here in Luanda.

[Dos Santos] I do not know the source of your figures, Madam...

[Elisa, interrupting] The whole of the international press, Mr. President.

[Dos Santos] But I do not work on the basis of figures carried in the press, I live in Angola.

[Elisa] So is it not true that UNITA sustained much higher losses?

[Dos Santos] It is not true. It is not true because there were many victims among the civilian population. Now, regarding the armed clashes between the police and the UNITA military forces who were in Luanda illegally, it is natural that UNITA should have sustained more losses, because UNITA was defeated. I believe that, in any war, the defeated side sustains more casualties than the victors. This is what may have happened in Luanda, and only in Luanda, but the war was not restricted to Luanda. Only two days later UNITA occupied Caxito, where it arrested officials and caused countless victims among soldiers, policemen and civilians. And a few days later it occupied Ndalatando—and I am mentioning only the provincial capitals—where MPLA and Government officials were detained. And some two to four weeks later it occupied Uige, another provincial capital. [passage omitted]

[Elisa] Mr. President, I would like to raise the question of the UNITA members in parliament. I have spoken to some of the opposition members who live in hotels here in Luanda. They struck me as being psychologically very diminished—I would say coerced—and incapable of standing up as an opposition. Moreover, of the 70 seats UNITA would have won, only nine have been occupied. Would you say that parliament is functioning democratically under these circumstances?

[Dos Santos] Parliament is functioning democratically. I think they must have a guilt complex. I am not referring specifically to those UNITA cadres who have taken up their seats in parliament; I am referring to the others who have not joined them and, fundamentally, to the leadership led by Dr. Savimbi. We have democracy; they are free. Their freedom, however, is restricted by the fact that Mr. Savimbi has set this country ablaze, resumed the path of war, and deepened general mistrust.

[Elisa] In connection with what you have just said, many observers believe that one of the government's political goals is to split UNITA and to fill the UNITA parliamentary bench with a docile group. As you know, Mr. President, UNITA's Radio Vorgan has stated that it regards some of UNITA's parliament members in Luanda as politically dead. Having spoken to some of them myself—not all of them, but quite a few—I can assure you, Mr. President, that those men do not conduct themselves as an opposition would. I put it to you again: Is this not dangerous for the future of democracy in Angola? Is that or is that not the government's goal? You yourself a short while ago referred to the warmongering wing of UNITA, and the government invariably refers to UNITA as if there are two of them. Is that the government's purpose?

[Dos Santos] I think that if there are not two UNITA's, at least there must be two political lines within UNITA: one supporting peace, which seems to be the one followed by the members of parliament who have taken up their seats, and another which has left the cities and the institutions and has unleashed and is waging a war against the democratic institutions. There are at least two lines. Is this bad for democracy? Of course it is bad, and we are against it. This is why we are pressing UNITA to return to the negotiating table, to resume the dialogue with the government so that we can complete the implementation of the Bicesse accords. [passage omitted]

[Elisa] Mr. President, as is known, your party, the MPLA, has a Marxist-Leninist past that leads some observers to believe that the party still suffers from a kind of irresistible tendency to behave in an hegemonic fashion, because that mentality cannot be eradicated overnight. Could it be that there continues to exist within the MPLA a faction of hard-liners who find it difficult to coexist, for example, with freedom of expression and with a truly democratic way of life?

[Dos Santos] The MPLA is an open party. It is today a mass party and all possible currents coexist within it, so I cannot declare that there are no activists who have not yet rid themselves of such ideas. Maybe they do exist. But do note: The MPLA has a program approved by congress which served as a basis for the government program it put to the electorate. This program is being implemented and all activists, regardless of whatever currents they may be associated with, are compelled to abide by the party program. The main goals of our program are clearly defined as peace, democracy, and a social market economy.

[Elisa] So you do recognize that a hard-line faction may exist and that it may influence the decisions of the government itself?

[Dos Santos] I do not believe it. I do not believe it because the world has changed and in Angola too a deep process of political, economic, and social change has taken place, and the situation today is different from before the Bicesse accords were signed. We have an open party practicing a broad democracy which is determined to build a democratic state of law and lay the foundations for a social market economy. This will be achieved little by little, with big struggles—internal ones among the various currents in the party and external ones against opposition forces bound to oppose our program. But I am convinced that this is the path chosen by the Angolan people in the September elections and that it will prevail.

[Elisa] I would like to go over to some economic issues. The MPLA has been in power for many years and usually this kind of situation causes major erosion. It is said, for example, that there is a highly privileged ruling class in Luanda enjoying very high living standards. You yourself have in the past highlighted instances of corruption which, observers claim, has reached alarming proportions here in Angola. What is your government doing to fight corruption?

[Dos Santos] I would not say that the phenomenon has reached alarming proportions. It may exist in isolated pockets. Nor is it exclusively an Angolan phenomenon, nor do I believe that the Angolan Government is one of the most corrupt in Africa, as is sometimes claimed. [passage omitted]

It is a question of creating stronger monitoring and watchdog bodies. We are a very young state, only 16 years old, and the Second Republic has been in existence for just a few months. [passage omitted] Power itself is not corrupt; it is the individual who may be corruptible or corrupt.

[Elisa] So what is the government specifically doing to fight corruption?

[Dos Santos] That is what I was trying to tell you. We still do not have all the necessary instruments—we have some weak ones, but they will be strengthened—to detect, monitor, and fight corruption. [passage omitted]

[Elisa] Mr. President, the minimum [monthly] wage is currently 19,000 kwanza and there is a proposal tabled in parliament to raise it to 90,000, equal to \$10, more or less. [passage omitted] The prices I found in the Luanda markets are truly frightening: A tin of powdered milk costs 15,000 kwanza—almost the entire minimum wage—one kg of potatoes costs 10,000 kwanza, and six eggs cost 15,000. How can anyone live in such a situation, Mr. President?

[Dos Santos] It is indeed an extremely difficult situation, I would indeed say a delicate situation. It is not yet being

discussed by the national assembly. A sudden and abrupt devaluation took place a few weeks ago and government teams have been set up to study a set of supplementary measures, including steps on wages in general and raising the minimum wage. [passage omitted]

These measures will be studied by the government, perhaps this month, and by the national assembly next month.

[Elisa] Mr. President, I would like to raise the question of the devaluation of the currency last February, which was meant to combat such a situation. In the wake of the devaluation you dismissed the minister for economic affairs and the governor of the Bank of Angola, stating that the new official exchange rate had taken nearly the whole government by surprise. Mr. President, this measure had been announced five days earlier in the JORNAL DE ANGOLA and I would have thought that all cabinet members read the JORNAL DE ANGOLA. Was it more a question of your withdrawing your solidarity from a minister who adopted an unpopular measure, unpopular especially for those who live off the profit margin between the official exchange rate and the black market one?

[Dos Santos] The JORNAL DE ANGOLA is not the government gazette. The government gazette is the DIARIO DA REPUBLICA, and government measures are announced in the form of resolutions or decrees, in accordance with the Constitution. [passage omitted] The cabinet is not supposed to be informed of government decisions through the JORNAL DE ANGOLA. [passage omitted]

There was no government decision. The president of the Republic was not informed, and for these reasons, on disciplinary grounds, basically as a disciplinary measure, the minister was dismissed after consultations with the prime minister. It was basically a disciplinary issue. What we condemned was the improper work methods involved. We are in a state that wishes to behave as a democratic one. We want to build a state of law; therefore transparency, broad debate, and a search for consensus are golden rules as far as we are concerned.

[Elisa] But in a democratic state it is not very usual for ministers to be sacked two months after being installed in office.

[Dos Santos] Yes, but it was a very serious breach of discipline. I hope you can accept this. The president of the Republic knew nothing about it, and the decision was not made by the government as a whole.

[Elisa] [passage omitted] Mr. President, in your opinion why has the U.S. Administration, after showing some signs of sympathy—which were actually highlighted by several U.S. newspapers—postponed the decision to recognize the Angolan Government?

[Dos Santos] I do not know whether the U.S. Administration has postponed the decision to recognize the Angolan Government. It seems to me that it may not have made the decision....

[Elisa, interrupting] In any case, since the elections the Angolan Government seems to have been expecting such recognition, and many observers have been predicting that it will take place very soon. But it has not yet materialized.

[Dos Santos] It has not yet materialized but it may yet do so. It all depends on the Americans. It is their sovereign decision, so to speak. At any rate, it is our belief that, since the same team that worked for the outgoing administration is still in office at the State Department, it is possible that a new African policy, and especially a new Angolan policy, may not have been mapped out yet.

[Elisa] So you believe that the U.S. Administration's decision will only be known when that team is replaced in May?

[Dos Santos] It is not a question of whether I believe it. I do think that there is a connection.

[Elisa] Mr. President, it has been said recently that the Russian Government was reportedly prepared to sell arms to the Angolan Government. The same was also said of the Portuguese Government but the latter immediately denied the rumor. You have been advocating the idea that the Angolan Government needs clear support for the defense of democracy, thus trying to circumvent the so-called triple-zero option of the Bicesse accords. If you cannot acquire arms from the three observer countries, Mr. President, from whom does the government plan to acquire them?

[Dos Santos] The Angolan Government is a legitimate one, elected through an electoral process that was included in the implementation of the Bicesse accords and was therefore supervised by the United Nations. I believe that it is also legitimately entitled to resort to all necessary means to preserve its territorial integrity and ensure the defense of the people and democratic institutions.

The arms trade is carried out in the international market according to certain rules. There are plenty of suppliers, and I think it will all depend on the opportunities the government may find.

[Elisa] Have you been establishing contacts to that end, Mr. President?

[Dos Santos] Have we any contacts? Plenty of people are contacting us, but we lack the cash to buy arms.

[Elisa] Have you already pondered the propositions you have had? Have you, Mr. President, and the government already made a choice?

[Dos Santos] As I said, we do not have the cash to buy arms. We need help from some other country. Perhaps Portugal could help by sending us arms.

[Elisa] Interior Minister Petroff said at a news conference that arms can be bought even in hell, provided the money is available, just as you have said. Do you agree with that remark? Would you be capable of going to hell to buy arms?

[Dos Santos] Well, that was a manner of speaking. What he was trying to convey was that, provided you have the money, you can get anything in the international market.

[Elisa] But how far are you prepared to go?

[Dos Santos] I do not understand your question. The world is no longer divided into a eastern bloc and a western bloc.

[Elisa] My question is whether any buyer, sorry, whether any country, any arms trader, would do as far as the Angolan Government is concerned?

[Dos Santos] It would depend on the terms of the deal, pure and simple.

[Elisa] So is it a business question, not an ethical one, is that right?

[Dos Santos] The ethical issue depends on how you pose the question. I was trying to ascertain if your question concerned ideological grounds.

[Elisa] No, I was speaking in terms of ethics. There still exist powers, countries where there is no democracy. Would the Angolan Government be prepared to buy arms from such countries?

[Dos Santos] Maybe you were trying to ask if we are prepared to buy arms from arms traffickers, on the black market. Is that what you are driving at?

[Elisa] Hell does cover a multitude of sins, does it not?

[Dos Santos] My point is that the Angolan people have the legitimate right to defend themselves, to organize their self-defense. Under the UN Charter, to organize that self-defense they may resort to international assistance from countries or powers. It is within this context that I say that we are prepared to go to any lengths to acquire arms to defend ourselves. Of course, I also stressed that we have no money, so we would prefer the international community to come to our aid, to send us arms to defend democracy here. Democracy is now a universal value. The whole world, all the world's politicians, are joining efforts to defend this important asset of mankind.

[Elisa] Indeed Mr. President, we all know how much a war can cost and how deep nations can be plunged into debt by war. In such circumstances even the superpowers

can accumulate huge deficits. Is it true that the government, the Angolan state, has already sold its oil production as far ahead as 1997 and that it is already spending that revenue?

[Dos Santos] No, that is not true. We have cooperation agreements with several countries, we have oil import and export agreements with some of them, including Portugal, Brazil, Spain, and perhaps Britain, because of British Petroleum, but not all of our production has been sold yet. We have cooperation agreements and in some cases we have made deals in advance....

[Elisa, interrupting] How far in advance, Mr. President?

[Dos Santos] ...but there is still some of the production available.

[Elisa] If not 1997, how far in advance has the oil been sold?

[Dos Santos] I am telling you that not all of the oil production has been sold. This is current production, and there is still the possibility of increasing production in the near future.

[Elisa] Mr. President, I believe that oil provides 95 percent of the revenue of the Angolan state. We have been given access to the project for advanced autonomy for the Cabinda enclave, according to which the enclave would have its own currency, its own anthem, and its own flag but the oil would remain in the hands of the Angolan state. FLEC [Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave], however, does not recognize the legitimacy of the people who drafted the charter. Do you fear the Cabinda separatist movement?

[Dos Santos] There is no specific charter yet.

[Elisa] There is a draft, a draft charter.

[Dos Santos] There is not even a draft charter.

[Elisa] We have had access to it.

[Dos Santos] There may be studies, plans, but no draft.

[Elisa] At any rate, it would suit the Angolan state, since it would retain control of the oil resources.

[Dos Santos] No, we have not yet discussed that matter in depth. It is a very delicate matter. We are presently maintaining contacts with some of the FLEC factions through their top leaders, but for the moment there is nothing concrete. We will continue the discussions until it becomes possible to find a mutually acceptable framework, so to speak, enabling us to solve the problem of the war and to create the premises for the development of the Cabinda region. [passage omitted]

The important thing for the Angolan Government is that territorial integrity be respected, that there be no secession, that the territory not be divided, and that all Angolans, whether they be Cabindans, Umbundos, Kicongos, or Chokwes, may live as brothers within the

borders inherited from the colonial era and use the natural and other resources for their own development. The Angolan Government does not just need Cabinda's oil: It needs the oil, it needs the Cabindans, it needs everything in Cabinda because Cabinda is an integral part of the whole that is the Angolan nation.

[Elisa] [passage omitted] Where does FLEC find its international support?

[Dos Santos] Well, I cannot categorically name FLEC's international supporters, but I do know that Mr. Nzita Tiago has lived in Paris for many years and I understand that he has contacts with French private sector circles connected with the oil industry. I also know that Nzita Tiago and Tiburcio have representatives in the Republic of Zaire who have easy access to those in charge of the security services and that, in addition to the transit facilities accorded them, they keep troops there which every so often launch cross-border attacks. These are the supports we know about.

[Elisa] Do you fear violence from the separatist movement?

[Dos Santos] We do not like violence because we want peace and stability for Angola, the premises for its development. So not only do we fear violence, we are against it. This is why we have proposed dialogue as a means to find a just solution to the Cabinda question. [passage omitted]

[Elisa] You have offered UNITA the culture portfolio and four deputy minister posts. [passage omitted] A Portuguese analyst has said that being minister of culture in Angola in the present circumstances is not unlike being appointed minister for maritime affairs in Switzerland. Be that as it may, and even if such a portfolio is only of a symbolic nature, when will those members of the government be installed in office?

[Dos Santos] I think when the war is over. It would make no sense for UNITA members to be part of a government against which the UNITA leadership has taken up arms. That would make no sense.

[Elisa] But if this war goes on for many years, as many analysts believe it may, will there be no multiparty government in the meantime?

[Dos Santos] Pluralism is not restricted to the MPLA and UNITA. We have more than 30 parties in the country and some 12 of them are represented in the national assembly. [passage omitted]

[Elisa] So there will be no UNITA ministers in the government until peace comes?

[Dos Santos] I think that is a question of principle.

[Elisa] Mr. President, why has General Franca Ndalo, head of the government's delegation to the joint political and military commission and the only top military man in the MPLA whom Dr. Savimbi seemed to accept, or

indeed accepted as an interlocutor, been dismissed as chief of the Armed Forces General Staff?

[Dos Santos] It was General Ndalo himself who asked to be replaced. He had occupied the post for a long time and thought it was time to give the new generation a chance. So a young general was appointed to replace him. But General Ndalo remains active in other areas.

[Elisa] Observers of the Angolan electoral process view General Ndalo as one of the great forces for peace. Was it not difficult for you to remove him from his post?

[Dos Santos] No, it was not difficult insofar as it was already becoming somewhat difficult to harmonize the war effort with the drive for peace. We thought it preferable that he should remain active precisely in the latter area, in the search for a political solution to the Angolan conflict. [passage omitted]

[Elisa] Mr. President, I would also like to raise the question of other bloody events which took place here in Luanda on 23 January, when at least several scores of Bakongo tribesmen were massacred in the streets. It is true that the MPLA was quick to dissociate itself from the bloodbath, but the fact remains that it occurred the day after Angolan National Radio carried an interview with an alleged UNITA dissident who claimed that there was a group of Zairian commandoes in Angola to kill you, Mr. President. Do you not think that this type of broadcast is in itself an invitation to a manhunt?

[Dos Santos] I think it is, but we have freedom of the press here, as that case proves. Some exaggerations that sometimes occur regarding certain news broadcasts do give cause for concern, but we have no censorship and are not going to impose it. It will require an educational process that will take some time to complete. [passage omitted]

[Elisa] According to all observers, a large part of the Angolan population—specifically the population of Luanda—possesses firearms. I have heard from people to whom I have been able to speak freely in the street that there are lots of guns around. Isn't this dangerous in such a delicate and potentially explosive situation such as Angola's at the present time?

[Dos Santos] It is dangerous on the one hand but not on the other. There is a feeling of popular revolt; the people have revolted against the war being conducted by Mr. Savimbi against democracy. I believe that the state institutions, namely the Armed Forces, which only began to be built in mid-1992 [as heard], have only a reduced capacity to face such a numerous army as UNITA's, which has 30,000 men and the support of South Africa. So the people find their own self-defense mechanisms, and we cannot deprive them of this possibility to defend themselves. Were the government to do so, it would be committing a crime.

[Elisa] A final and perhaps the most topical question: Mr. President, The U.S. Administration is believed to

have proposed a peace plan to Angolan Ambassador in Washington Jose Patricio. Do you know of this plan, Mr. President, and what do you think of it?

[Dos Santos] No, we have received no plan on peace in Angola from the U.S. Administration. I had a meeting with our ambassador accredited to the American states, Mr. Jose Patricio, and he made no reference to any American peace plan. Curiously enough, I heard that report this morning on Radio France International and....

[Elisa, interrupting] So did I, and that report was later confirmed to me by members of your staff.

[Dos Santos] I was very surprised. What there has been is exchanges of views and ideas, so to speak, with some members of the American team who went to Addis Ababa, on a possible program and a timetable for the search for a solution to the conflict. But that is all there is. In effect, the Americans undertook to contact UNITA to exchange impressions and ideas with them as well. Only afterwards might they formulate a proposal and formally put it to the government, UNITA, and the other peace observers, Portugal and Russia. But this has not yet happened. I was very surprised when I heard Radio France International speak of a new peace plan for Angola, which I have never heard about.

[Elisa] At any rate, would such a plan be a positive development?

[Dos Santos] It would be a positive development as long as it did not depart from the Bicesse accords and scrupulously respected the results of the elections of last 29-30 September.

[Elisa] If there was a new round of talks with UNITA, which has not yet materialized, would you, Mr. President, would the Angolan Government accept UNITA's demand for an open agenda not restricted to the stipulations of the Bicesse accords?

[Dos Santos] An open agenda within the framework of the Bicesse accords and respecting the election results. Outside this there is no solution.

[Elisa] Thank you very much for this interview, Mr. President.

[Dos Santos] Thank you.

[Elisa] Dear viewers, this is all from Luanda today. RTP is naturally endeavoring to listen to the other side in the Angolan conflict, in this instance UNITA leader Dr. Savimbi.

Official Questions Need for Meeting With Savimbi

MB1603203693 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] The UN resolution was well received by President of the Republic Jose Eduardo dos Santos. Aldomiro Vaz da Conceicao, spokesman for the president of the

Republic, said the points in the resolution conform with the principles advocated by the Angolan Government.

[Begin Da Conceicao recording] It was well received because the points contained in the resolution conform with the principles that we have been advocating—the need for dialogue, the need to respect the democratic institutions resulting from the electoral process, the need for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] to accept its disarmament and become a normal political party, and the need to rigorously implement the Bicesse Accords. [end recording]

In an interview with Luanda Radio today, Aldomiro Vaz da Conceicao said that the Angolan authorities do not agree, however, that a meeting at the highest level between the government and UNITA should be held right way, as was equally stipulated in the resolution. The spokesman for the president of the Republic said such a meeting would not be a solution to the present crisis, inasmuch as talks are under way at the level of delegations.

[Begin Da Conceicao recording] We think that as long as essential issues are not resolved there is no reason to hold a meeting at the highest level. When the resolution states at the highest level, I believe it means a meeting between President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and the UNITA leader. We do not see the advantage of this meeting at the moment, inasmuch as it is not because of lack of a such a meeting that Angola is experiencing the present conflict. On the contrary, this meeting could perhaps create even greater difficulties for the Angolan process. Accordingly, this meeting is not in our cards, nor do we think it could be a solution to resolve our problems at the present moment. [end recording]

He also said that the Angolan authorities have not received an Angolan peace plan from the United States and there has been no contact between the two sides since the aborted Addis Ababa meeting.

UNITA Discovers 'Concrete Evidence' of Election Fraud

MB1603121693 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1100 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] The UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] movement says it has discovered concrete evidence of fraud during last year's multiparty elections in Angola. UNITA said its forces have discovered thousands of ballot papers in favor of UNITA, hidden away at the governor's palace in the city of Huambo in central Angola, which was recently occupied by UNITA forces.

It said the ballot papers would be made available to foreign journalists as well as United Nations observers.

Foreign Ministry Begins 'Diplomatic Offensive'*MB1703080893 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 16 Mar 93*

[Text] The Angolan Government is continuing its diplomatic offensive in certain African countries. Anercio Cadete, head of the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Information and Documentation Office, has spoken to Radio Angola in connection with that diplomatic offensive:

[Begin Cadete recording] Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister George Chikoty will be reporting Angola's political and military situation to the diplomatic corps in Zambia. First, he will meet with the African Group and then with the honorable diplomatic representatives of other countries of the world who are accredited in the Frontline states which that Angolan delegation is currently visiting.

On 15 March, Mr. George Chikoty met with Zambian Deputy Foreign Minister Sinkala Osendi, whom he briefed on the Angolan situation. He noted that South Africa and Zaire have been directly involved in the Angolan conflict, side-by-side with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] troops.

Also yesterday, Deputy Foreign Minister Chikoty briefed Zambian Defense Minister Ben Mwila and Home Affairs Minister Newstead Zimba on UNITA's increasingly bellicose behavior. The aim of Minister Chikoty's visit is to report on the evolution of Angola's political and military situation in general, and the direct involvement of foreign forces in the Angolan conflict in particular. Angolan diplomacy has been conducting this clarification in various parts of the globe. [end recording]

Botswana**Defense Forces Return From Somalia***MB1603133593 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1110 GMT 15 Mar 93*

[Text] The first Botswana Defense Force [BDF] group of 100 soldiers returned last night from Somalia, where they had been assigned under operation Restore Hope. The soldiers were met at the Sir Seretse Khama Airport by the commander of the BDF, Lieutenant General Seretse Khama Ian Khama and other senior army officials.

Last December Botswana sent 327 soldiers and equipment to protect and escort food relief convoys into Somalia. Another 100 soldiers left for Somalia yesterday to assist other countries in the UN peace keeping operation. Other African countries from which the UN has requested for help include Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe.

Mozambique**Renamo Official: Force of Arms Will Not Be Used***MB1703072093 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 16 Mar 93*

[Text] Vicente Ululu, Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] secretary general, said in Chimoio today that his movement will not use the force of arms again to achieve the freedom and democracy for which it fought for 16 years.

The Renamo secretary general accused the government of violating the principles of the General Peace Accord because it has intimidated Renamo members, thereby inhibiting them in their political work.

Vicente Ululu also guaranteed that Renamo will not miss any more Supervision and Control Commission [CSC] meetings, but he added logistic supplies must be improved to prevent a war of words between the two sides.

Vicente Ululu is in Manica Province at the head of a Renamo delegation including Raul Domingos, head of the Renamo team to the CSC; Lieutenant General (Mateus Nguanhamo), head of the Renamo team to the Commission for the Formation of the Future Mozambique Army; and Lieutenant General (Issufo Momade), Renamo military commander for Marica Province. That delegation, which was scheduled to meet Renamo members residing in Chimoio today, will begin a two-day visit to Tete Province tomorrow.

Dhlakama Rejects Date To Start Training Army Instructors*MB1703080793 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 16 Mar 93*

[Text] Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo], has rejected the date proposed by the British authorities to start training instructors of the future unified army. The British authorities had proposed that such training begin in Nyanga, Zimbabwe, on 21 March.

Afonso Dhlakama believes training should not begin yet because neither side has confined its troops yet. Dhlakama has told Radio Mozambique's Washington correspondent that he had conveyed this position to the British authorities during his recent visit to London.

Moreover, Renamo is demanding that the troop confinement process commence when at least two thirds of the UN peacekeeping force is already on the ground.

Chief Negotiator Interviewed on Peace Process

MB1303164393 Maputo Radio Maputo in English 1800
GMT 11 Mar 93

[From the "Outlook Africa" program]

[Text] As you may have heard in the news, there have been some problems in Mozambique's peace process with Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] failing to attend meetings to discuss alleged cease-fire violations. For some years now, the Mozambican Government's chief negotiator at the talks with Renamo has been Transport Minister Armando Guebuza. In an interview yesterday with Radio Maputo's Ian Christie, Mr. Guebuza took stock of the situation.

[Begin recording] [Christie] There have been some set backs to the peace process in Mozambique over the last week, particularly with Renamo's failure to attend two meetings of the Supervisory and Control Commission. Can you confirm that this may be a very serious problem for the future of the peace process?

[Guebuza] It is a problem, as we did agree and if we have problems it's because one of the ways that we agreed that will be used is (?of course) sit and discuss. But of course, considering the record [word indistinct] the agreement up to now, I cannot foresee any grave setbacks in terms of the whole process as such. I understand that eventually Mr. Domingos' cadres went to Gorongosa to consult with Mr. Dhlakama and to find ways to better cooperate in this process of not only [word indistinct] but especially of building peace.

[Christie] Mr. Guebuza: You (?endured) negotiating the peace agreement for more than two years. Since the agreement was actually signed last October, there has been relative peace in Mozambique. The United Nations is present to keep a watch over the process. It is saying already that Mozambique is (?a great prospect) for the peacekeeping process. Are you still optimistic that this is actually going to happen?

[Guebuza] But, of course, first, for the Mozambicans' sake, I would say that we are eager to see that this process, this project becomes a success and my feeling, on the basis of what happened since we signed the agreement up to now, is that everybody should endeavor in that direction. Of course, there are setbacks, there problems arising. It was expected in a complex situation like that, we would have to face these problems. And we... [pauses] but in terms of comparison with other processes, I... [pauses] well, unfortunately the situation in the world is not so hopeful in terms of lack of solutions to these problems, situations in Cambodia, in Bosnia in ex-Yugoslavia. So, we may contribute moving in a successful way to create hope and Mozambique may so become a successful story that will not only solve the problems of Mozambicans, but help solve the problems of people in southern Africa, but also eventually help to overcome the problems where conflicts exist today.

[Christie] The multiparty elections in Mozambique have been postponed now several times. The idea was to have them in October this year, the United Nations secretary general special representative in Mozambique, Mr. Ajello, is now saying it might be more realistic to have the elections in June next year. Do you think even June next year is realistic, given the present situation?

[Guebuza] Well, first of all, we will consider the position. Mr. Ajello's personal opinion is important and, secondly, it would be unwise to my understanding that, before we have UN forces and the first phases of the accommodation (?process) [words indistinct] armed forces in assembly points, the beginning of the training of the new army, as well as other aspects, that it would be unwise on our side to define a target, a calendar in terms of time.

[Christie] Do you even have a target in mind for the first entry into assembly points of the forces?

[Guebuza] Well, I don't. I am a person who has been living (?without means), alone, all this time, especially in the last four of five months, out of promises that we are going to have UN forces in a week's time, or in two weeks' time, or one month's time and, as you may be aware of the case of the Italian battalion, it illustrates this very much and up to now we do not have the Italian battalion here in Mozambique. So, we were told, too, that by the end of March we may have another battalions in (?line). Well, I don't know whether that will happen. So, I would rather expect to wait and see when they arrive and from that to start thinking in other terms.

[Christie] One other point: During this dispute over Renamo's failure to attend the meetings of the Supervisory and Control Commission, Mr. Ajello said in a communique that he has a right to convene meetings of the commission without consulting anybody. Now, Mr. Raul Domingos, the Renamo chief [word indistinct] says no, Mr. Ajello had to consult with the parties before convening a meeting of the commission. What is the position of the government? These are two conflicting opinions: What is the government's opinion?

[Guebuza] As I understood it, it was whether Mr. Ajello has a right to convene it, with or without the approval of the parties. To my understanding we, the government and Renamo, elected the United Nations to chair meetings, so a meeting must be called by the chairman and, of course, it is normal for the chairman before convening the meeting, to consult with both parties, so both parties show their approval [words indistinct] meeting and, on that basis, then the meeting is called but, of course, he may feel that there is something urgent or too important that cannot depend on the approval of either party. So, I think that, as chairman, he should call the meeting, so that we can meet and find out exactly what is happening. I mean, Mr. Ajello is the chairman. We elected the United Nations to chair these meetings, so he has got the right to call a meeting.

[Christie] [Words indistinct] that the United Nations operations, as here in Mozambique, do you think there is any risk to Mozambique's sovereignty?

[Guebuza] As I was saying, to many people sovereignty is lost when they have something [word indistinct] and something that conflicts with the constitution, or with the laws existing in the country. Well, as I see, in fact you can also lose sovereignty if in practice these laws are not observed by those concerned, if they are foreigners, even if it is an international organization. Then you have a situation where sovereignty is put into jeopardy. But, in this concrete case, we established [word indistinct] where is the United Nations supposed to act as a body and that is set in the general agreement. So if the United Nations works on that basis, then there is no problem of sovereignty, because that is what we accepted to (?do) in order to reinforce our sovereignty, especially after the multi-party elections. So, if you had people in the United Nations coming in without being aware of the need of respect of a state and of these laws, then you may run into problems but, otherwise, we should not be so concerned with it, but also we are a weak state in the sense that we were born 16 years ago. We have a sense of sovereignty very strong, of defending our sovereignty very strong. We just have always to work so that we don't lose this, because why did sign our peace agreement? It was exactly to guarantee that our sovereignty is not only respected but affirms itself in a positive way, obligating other countries to [word indistinct]. [end recording]

UNHCR Representative on Refugee Repatriation Program

MB1703100693 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 16 Mar 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] If all goes according to plan the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] intends to repatriate 1.3 million Mozambican refugees by 1995. Most of them are living in Malawi. It's the biggest UNHCR resettlement program ever attempted in Africa, but the UN's also conceded that there could be serious obstacles to the success of the program. Some 2 million landmines are thought to be left over from the civil war and many refugees will be returning to destroyed homes and villages. There are also continuing security problems between Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] and Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front], despite the signing of the peace accord in Rome last October. On the line to Maputo Rega Omar put it to the UNHCR's representative Emmanuel Owusu, that the repatriation program had been put together a bit too quickly.

[Begin recording] [Owusu] Well, not really because people are already coming back and I can tell you since the signing of the peace agreement in October last year we had 190,000 people already who have come back on their own, so the prospect of people coming back is something that we cannot stop and we will have to help

them as much as we can. It is true that there are mines and other obstacles but the people are tired of being out of the country and being in exile and they want to come home. They have been waiting for so long to come back.

[Omar] Now what kind of assistance will you be giving these returning people because obviously large tracts of Mozambique have been devastated in many years of war? Are you going to help them to go back to arable and farming lands, give them the seeds and tools they need?

[Owusu] Yes, that will be a major portion of activities. First, we will give some relief assistance and many will give tools and seeds for them and assist them to become self-sufficient as soon as possible. Thereafter, there will be some other agencies who will help them in getting the economic situation in line with what is happening.

[Omar] But do you have enough funds to help 1.3 million people in this kind of way?

[Owusu] No, well certainly we don't at the moment but we will be launching an appeal very soon to the international community for the necessary fund that we need in assisting these people.

[Omar] How much will you be asking the international community for, in your appeal?

[Owusu] Well, I cannot put numbers on anything now. We are working. We have a plan for it. At this moment it would depend on many things. There are countries of asylum where we have to make plans in bringing the people back and each country will have a different budget, plus the receiving country, that is, the country of origin. We have planned to spend 30 million for the period of this year, from now until the end of the year. From October up to end of this month we have 10 million dollars for which we have ordered a lot of relief items for them. [end recording]

Foreign Minister, Italian Counterpart Meet

MB1703061593 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network
in Portuguese 0400 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Pascoal Mocumbi has already arrived in Rome, the Italian capital, where he has held talks with Emilio Colombo, his Italian counterpart.

At the meeting, the Italian official reaffirmed his country's willingness to continue assisting Mozambique with its peace process. He also said Italy would send the rest of its forces to Mozambique before the end of this month.

Namibia

National Union Withdraws From Labor Advisory Council

MB1203143993 Windhoek THE NAMIBIAN in English
10 Mar 93 pp 1, 3

[Report by Erich Boois: "Union Quits Key Labour Council"]

[Text] The National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) yesterday withdrew from the Labour Advisory Council [LAC] on the eve of its opening session today, saying it would not recognise any of the LAC's decisions.

Arguing that the NUNW represented the majority of workers in the labour market, the NUNW said it could not accept the fact that minority unions had been given the same representation as them.

The Labour Advisory Council is made up of representatives of employer organisations, trade unions and the Government. It has been set up to advise the Minister of Labour and Manpower on all labour matters in the country. Each of the three parties have four representatives on the 12-member council.

Two of the four union representatives are from the NUNW and its affiliates. The other two are from unions which the NUNW described as representing minorities.

Addressing a press conference, NUNW Secretary General Bernard Esau said: "We are creating a precedent if we are only allowed to have the same representation as those other unions we know are a definite minority.

"We represent more than 50 per cent of all workers in Namibia and that majority should be reflected on the Council". Esau said he was not denying minority unions a right to representation but in a democracy the right of the majority, which formed the basis of democracy, should also be respected.

He added that the NUNW would reject any attempts to marginalise it and its affiliates by awarding equal seats to the "unrepresentative minority trade unions."

Swaziland

South Africans Arrested for Alleged Arms Smuggling

MB1703085193 Johannesburg Radio South Africa
Network in English 0500 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Three South Africans have been detained by Swaziland Defence Force troops in connection with the alleged smuggling of weapons from neighboring Mozambique with the intention of selling them in South Africa. The three were arrested at an army road block at Maphiveni, after three AK-47 rifles, four magazines, and 45 rounds of ammunition were found in their car.

Zambia

Minister on Death Threat, Breaking Ties With Iran, Iraq

MB1603204193 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 16 Mar 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Within the next 24 hours, all Iraqi and Iranian diplomats should have left Zambia following the MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] government's decision to break off diplomatic relations. But it looks as if that is not the end of the story. It all started when the Chiluba government accused the two Middle Eastern countries of interference in Zambia's internal affairs. The implication was that they had backed the so-called Zero Option Plan, whose discovery led to the imposition of a state of emergency and the detention of several opposition figures. Now, Zambia's foreign minister, Vernon Mwaanga, says he has received a death threat. On the line to Lusaka, Elizabeth Ohene asked Mr. Mwaanga how he got the message:

[Begin recording] [Mwaanga] Yesterday at about 1100 [0900 GMT], an envelope was delivered to me containing a message addressed to me, as well as a bullet which appears to be that of a .38 pistol, where it was said, you know, that that bullet would get into my head within the next two days and that I should resign from this government because I am considered a pain, as it were.

[Ohene] Where was this letter delivered? In your home or in the office?

[Mwaanga] In the office, and it was posted through the normal postal system and marked express, and in accordance with our established procedures express mail is delivered by personnel of the PTC, the post and telecommunications. My secretary opened it, and it was on A5 white paper—the message—and bloodstained, and then the bullet was stuck to this piece of paper using cello tape right in the middle of this message which was sent to me. I immediately called the police, and they came and collected the letter, and they have launched the investigations.

[Ohene] Now, who are you blaming for this? Who are you suspecting?

[Mwaanga] I don't really want to apportion any blame. I don't want to suspect anybody. I would like the police to investigate this matter and try and get to the bottom of it. So, I don't think that it will be fair for me to prejudice their investigations at this point, and I think it is important to remember, of course, that we have severed diplomatic relations with two countries, Iran and Iraq. Some of their diplomats left yesterday, and the last group leaves tomorrow. I don't want to cast any aspersions on these two countries, but I think it is important to remember that after having taken the decision we took to sever diplomatic relations with them, a number of other

incidents have been happening. For example, two days ago my house was stoned at 0300 in the morning by unknown people. I don't want to establish a link between the two events, but this is part of the pattern which has been emerging during the last two days since we took that important decision.

[Ohene] Now, you, as foreign minister, taking this decision to break diplomatic relations with Iran and Iraq, don't you think that maybe you have gone a bit over the top?

[Mwaanga] No, we have acted on the basis of information which is available to us as a government, and, as you know, breaking off diplomatic relations is not a very simple decision to take. It is a very grave decision for any government to take, and it should only be taken after the most careful consideration of all the other options which are available. We weighed all the other options available—we also weighed the weight of information that we

have which incriminates these two countries—and we obviously came to the only conclusion that the only way we could express our very strong displeasure and disapproval of their activities was by breaking off diplomatic relations with them. [end recording]

Security Police Arrest Former President Kaunda's Son

MB1603122993 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1100 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] It's reported from Lusaka that a third son of former President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia has been arrested by security police in connection with an opposition plan to overthrow the government. He is Dr. Kaunda's eldest son (Panji Kaunda), a retired army officer and member of Parliament. He is being held at Chipata for questioning.

Cote d'Ivoire

French Defense Chief Visits Military Academy, Comments

AB1603092893 Abidjan Radio Cote d'Ivoire Chaine Nationale-Une Network in French 0700 GMT
15 Mar 93

[Text] Admiral Jacques Lanxade, the French chief of Defense Staff, who is currently on a visit to Cote d'Ivoire, was in Bouake at the weekend. The French Armed Forces chief, who was accompanied by General Robert Guei, his Ivorian counterpart, visited the Bouake Military Academy. Following this visit, Admiral Lanxade gave our reporter, Joseph Taregue, his impressions about the visit and his views on France-Cote d'Ivoire military cooperation.

[Begin recording] My impression about my visit to the academy is quite excellent. A very remarkable working atmosphere and a spirit of cooperation prevails there between the French and the Ivorians, which, of course, is in line with the friendship between our two countries. This atmosphere was particularly obvious there.

I believe that as a result of the economic crisis, it is definitely necessary for France to continue its efforts to cooperate with its Ivorian friends. It is when this country is confronted with difficulties that France must come to its rescue, and this it is doing. France assists Cote d'Ivoire in the political and economic sectors, and it must also do so in the military sector. I do intend to personally help to overcome this period in the best conditions so that we can move ahead when the future becomes brighter.

France and Cote d'Ivoire are friendly and allied countries, and France attaches great importance to the security of Cote d'Ivoire, to the stability of the subregion, and to that of the continent in general. This is why we are carefully monitoring events in this region. [end recording]

Liberia

Government Accuses Firestone Company of Helping Taylor

AB1603175893 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT
16 Mar 93

[Text] Monrovia, March 16 (AFP) - Liberia's interim government Tuesday [16 March] accused the American-run Firestone rubber plantations company of aiding Charles Taylor, leader of the rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

Government sources made the charge following interim President Amos Sawyer's tour last week of the company's facilities in Harbel, 50 kilometres (30 miles), east of Monrovia.

Sawyer was conducted out of Monrovia by troops of the Nigerian-led intervention force ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group], which has inflicted a series of military defeats on Taylor's forces since lifting a rebel siege on the capital late last year.

Sawyer discovered a document and a video footage implicating Firestone in "Taylor's military campaign of conquest in Liberia," one of the government sources said.

Firestone's "role will be fully investigated," the source added.

Firestone, according to the document, played a major role in the renovation of Robertsfield International Airport to facilitate Taylor's importation of arms and communication devices.

The document also revealed that the Firestone plantation served as ammunition dump and workshop, government sources said.

Firestone personnel were not available for comment on the allegations.

Interim president Amos Sawyer last week Friday visited the Firestone base and expressed "grave disappointment" about the extent at which the company operated in its dealing with Taylor.

"Firestone was the command post and nerve center from which Taylor planned and executed his 'Operation Octopus' (October 15 attack on Monrovia) in which thousands have lost their lives", Sawyer was quoted by the authorities as saying.

In the video footage found among other things left by fleeing NPFL fighters from Firestone, the company's general manager is featured providing American journalists with "outright lies and falsehoods" about the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) members, authorities who viewed the video tape said.

ECOWAS sent the multinational ECOMOG force to Liberia in August 1990, eight months after Taylor began his insurrection.

They also said that at Firestone's Harbel headquarters where Taylor resided, several boxes of assorted arms and ammunition were found, some of them with American or Libyan markings.

Firestone, the single largest rubber plantation in the world, in 1926 signed a 99-year contract with Liberia to operate a one-million-acre rubber plantation.

The company closed down its operations in May 1990 in the wake of the Liberian civil war, but resumed operations in July 1991 under agreement with Taylor and paid taxes to him.

Sawyer described the agreement as "illegitimate," and accused the U.S. company of "making profits while Liberians are dying."

ECOMOG Said Poised To Take 'Key' Buchanan Port
*AB1703084693 Paris AFP in English 0348 GMT
17 Mar 93*

[Text] Monrovia, March 16 (AFP)—The Nigerian-led ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] intervention force is poised to take the key port of Buchanan from the rebels of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), military sources said here Tuesday [16 March].

Buchanan, 90 kilometres (56 miles) southeast of Monrovia, and Taylor's main base at Gbarnga, 160 kilometres (100 miles) to the northeast of the capital, were both directly threatened, the sources said.

ECOMOG, which was sent to Liberia in August 1990, has seized several places on the highway between Harbel, a key town east of Monrovia, and Buchanan, and was Tuesday at the Saint Paul river, 15 kilometres (nine miles) from the port.

Buchanan is "likely to fall by the end of the week," one source said.

A spokesman for the United Liberation Movement (ULIMO), a Liberian armed faction fighting Taylor, said ULIMO troops were moving on Gbarnga from Loffa county in the northwest and Kakata on the road inland from Monrovia. ECOMOG's general staff in Monrovia refused to comment on the reports.

Late Tuesday, however, ECOMOG's commander, Nigerian General Adetunji Olurin, said "Charles Taylor's war of terror and violence is over." Addressing displaced people from zones recently recaptured from the NPFL, Olurin called on them "to reject Taylor or anyone who chooses to take the presidency by force against the popular and democratic will of the people."

Deprived of fuel, ammunition and medicines since the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) imposed a blockade against Liberia's warring factions in November, the NPFL has gone from one defeat to another.

Diplomats in Abidjan said that Taylor has in vain approached several foreign countries for military supplies. They estimated that his capacity to resist will be exhausted in a matter of weeks.

In another development Tuesday, Britain gave ECOWAS secretary-general Abbas Bundu 2.6 tonnes of medical supplies for the ECOMOG troops at a ceremony in the Sierra Leonean capital Freetown. British charge d'affaires June Matlew said she hoped for a "speedy end" to the "senseless war" in Liberia. The medicines would last ECOMOG for three months and Britain was ready to provide more if necessary, Matlew added.

Nigeria

Government To Check 'Incessant' Petroleum Smuggling

AB1303154893 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The Nigerian Government is to take necessary measures to check the incessant smuggling of petroleum products from Nigeria to Benin and other neighboring West African countries. The secretary of petroleum and mineral resources, Chief Philip Asiodu, told the Beninois presidential delegation yesterday in Lagos that Nigeria was losing over \$2 million daily to the illegal trade. He said that smuggling was also depriving the Beninois Government of legitimate revenue from taxes. He noted that the visit of the team was timely since Nigerians were in the middle of a big national debate to make the prices of petroleum at par with those of the international market.

Earlier, Mr. Desire Vieira, senior Cabinet minister in the Beninois Government, who led the delegation, assured that Benin was willing to cooperate with Nigeria to end the activities of smugglers of petroleum products. On the delay of the delivery of 10,000 tonnes of bitumen promised the Beninois Government by Nigeria, Chief Asiodu said that specifications and other technical details were yet to be received from Benin.

NNPC Assures Public of Normal Petroleum Supplies

AB1603112693 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, has assured everyone that it has normal stock of petroleum products in its depots throughout the country. It says that petrol stations have no cause to resort to hoarding. It has therefore advised major and independent marketers of petroleum to be calm and avoid creating panic among consumers as the national demand is being met and more products are coming from the refineries to increase the normal stock in all depots. The NNPC says it is dispatching its inspectors and agents round the country to check for defaulters on orders who are contributing to the economic hardship. It warns that companies and stations caught hoarding will have their licenses withdrawn immediately.

Senegal

Demonstrating Youths Attack Gendarmes; 10 Arrested

AB1503111393 Paris AFP in French 0946 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Dakar, 15 Mar (AFP)—Hundreds of young people, divided into several groups, stoned gendarmes on guard near Dakar University last night, it was observed on the spot. The security forces, who were

harassed for five hours, responded with tear gas grenades and arrested about 10 demonstrators, none of whom were students, according to reliable sources.

The demonstrators took advantage of the end of a student meeting on the campus to attack the security forces, as they did on 13 March in two Dakar districts after the announcement of the reelection of President Abdou Diouf as head of Senegal.

The students, who did not take part in the demonstration, had met to decide on a possible resumption of lectures at the university, which has been paralyzed by several weeks of strike.

Alleged MFDC Attacks in Casamance Kill 3, Injure 6

AB1403120593 Paris AFP in French 1249 GMT
13 Mar 93

[Text] Dakar, 13 Mar (AFP)—Three persons were killed and six others wounded on 12 March in Casamance in three separate attacks perpetrated by men suspected to belong to the separatist Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance [MFDC], a reliable source reported on 13 March in Dakar.

A public transport vehicle was attacked on the Ziguinchor-Mback road, close to the border with Guinea-Bissau. The driver was killed and five passengers, all women, were wounded, the source disclosed.

A man suspected to belong to the MFDC was killed in a scuffle between an armed group and soldiers in Niadou Region, close to Ziguinchor, the regional capital. According to the same source, one soldier was injured.

Finally, a Socialist Party official in Oussouye, 40 km south of Ziguinchor, was killed. Initial reports following inquiry, said he was attacked by men who claimed to belong to the MFDC.

Casamance has been calling for autonomy since 1982. Nearly 400 persons have died over the past six months, especially in clashes between the MFDC and the Senegalese Army.

Sierra Leone

Ambassador on Uncovered Arms Shipment Attempt

AB1603172593 London BBC World Service in English
0630 GMT 16 Mar 93

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Hilton Fyle]

[Text] Many people can probably guess what would have happened if a group calling itself the High Revolutionary Command Group had succeeded in shipping an assortment of weapons from the Ukraine in the former Soviet Union to Sierra Leone. The government in Sierra Leone

believes that members of the APC [All-People's Congress] government, which they overthrew in April last year, are behind the latest attempt. Well, Sierra Leone's ambassador to Moscow, Mr. Olu Harding, was instrumental in bringing this story to light. On the line to Moscow yesterday, I asked him first of all how he got to know about the plot:

[Begin recording] [Harding] Oh well, Mr. Fyle, it is through the intelligence organs of my mission I had genuine, authentic, end-user's certificates issued to an unauthorized party for the procurement of arms and ammunition on behalf of the Armed Forces of the Government of Sierra Leone. As an ambassador and, you know, as a new revolutionary government, the national and international intelligence and security network of Sierra Leone is always at work and at full alert especially when we are defending our nation as a result of an unjustified attack on our country.

[Fyle] What kind of weapons are we talking about there?

[Harding] Well, the types of arms and ammunition included guided missiles, rocket-propelled grenades, hand grenades, anti-aircraft weapons, and ammunition, and several ammunition and weapons of mass destruction.

[Fyle] Could you tell us: Where exactly were these arms going to come from? Were they going to come from a particular company or from a government source in the Ukraine?

[Harding] Well, not quite, you know, but as a matter of fact we are even....[changes thought] My security network informed me that in fact a plane was supposed to leave yesterday, but we were, you know, swift enough to prevent it from moving.

[Fyle] These weapons were all ready for shipment and were going to be loaded on a plane bound for Sierra Leone, is that what you are saying?

[Harding] The weapons should have been dispatched in May, but just a couple of days ago we were also informed that, you know, another plane was supposed to leave on March 15.

[Fyle] So, we are talking about two attempts now to get plane loads of weapons from....

[Harding, interrupting] Two attempts of course, yes.

[Fyle] Is it easy now to buy lots of weapons in what used to be the Soviet Union where you are?

[Harding] Well, naturally, Hilton with the disintegration of the former Soviet Union there is sort of a loose structure, you know, whereby people can do the purchasing, but you know, with the strong security network

we can prevent any attempts made to purchase these things, you know, illegally. [end recording]

Government Troops Said To Recapture 2 Villages

*AB1303105093 Paris AFP in English 2240 GMT
12 Mar 93*

[Text] Freetown, March 12 (AFP)—The Sierra Leone army said Friday [12 March] it recaptured two towns from rebel hands and arrested five people including the deputy defense minister trying to import a large quantity of arms.

Commander Alfred Koroma, in charge of field operations, told AFP that 45 rebel members of the United Revolutionary Front (URF) were killed in the battles to recapture Bandajuma and Gandorhun cities, about 260 kilometers (160 miles) east of the capital. A large stock of arms and war materials were also seized, Koroma said.

The URF, a guerrilla movement led by Corporal Foday Sankoh, has lost most of the positions it has occupied progressively in the last two years in regions bordering Guinea and Liberia.

The rebel army has also withdrawn from its eastern position, from Koidu about 250 kilometers (155 miles) east of Freetown to the mouth of the Mano River near the Liberian border. The Sierra Leone army also said that the rebels had been pushed back south to Pujehun, about 210 kilometers (130 miles) southeast of Freetown.

Friday, Deputy Defense Minister Ernest Allen, his secretary, two labor officials and a local insurance company director were arrested, informed sources said.

Their arrests follows the Sierra Leonian military junta's discovery Tuesday of a plan to import from Ukraine a large stockpile of military equipment including armoured vehicles, grenade launchers and 1,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles.

Police said that five people had been questioned during an investigation but declined to say whether Allen was among the group.

The junta called the arms importation plan an "attempt to destabilize the regime." The government also said that Allen's name appeared on the license to import the arms and that he was "cooperating with the police."

Finance Secretary Signs Debt Rescheduling Agreements

*AB1603094393 Freetown SLBS Radio in English 2000
GMT 15 Mar 93*

[Text] The secretary of state, finance, development, and economic planning, Dr. John A. Karimu, left Freetown on the 20th of last month to conclude a number of bilateral rescheduling agreements with the Paris Club creditors governments. The mission resulted in the successful negotiation and signing of four separate bilateral agreements for the rescheduling and refinancing of

Sierra Leone's debts with Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, and France. The agreements will relieve Sierra Leone of its present heavy debts servicing.

Addressing creditors, Dr. Karimu gave an overview of the economic and political situation in Sierra Leone, and the NPRC [National Provisional Ruling Council] government's efforts to restore the economy, its commitment to the restoration of international credibility, and its strict adherence to the implementation of loan agreements reached with the Paris Club creditors.

The secretary of state informed the various governments of the adverse effect of the rebel war in Sierra Leone which has resulted in the occupation of the economically productive eastern and southern areas of the country. He also drew attention to the rights accumulation program which the recent IMF review mission to Sierra Leone last month declared to be progressing well.

In the light of the progress the NPRC government is making in the improvement of the economy, Dr. Karimu said that it was the view of the four countries to consider additional assistance to Sierra Leone. The secretary of state revealed that the creditors were impressed with the IMF report on Sierra Leone despite the ongoing war and promised their governments' willingness to assist Sierra Leone in national development. Dr. Karimu stressed the NPRC government's determination to fully implement the bilateral agreements signed.

While in Europe, the secretary of state visited the headquarters of the European Investment Bank, EIB, in Luxembourg, and held discussions with bank officials. The secretary of state informed the bank officials of the NPRC government's commitment to both bilateral and multilateral agreements. He also gave an overview of Sierra Leone's political and economic situation, and the remedial measures already taken to restore the economy.

On the question of human rights in Sierra Leone, Dr. John Karimu explained in detail the reasons for the takeover by the NPRC government which was precipitated by gross violation of fundamental human rights for over two decades of APC [All People's Congress] misrule. The NPRC government, he said, intervened to protect the citizens of Sierra Leone from any further violation of these rights.

On the matter of returning Sierra Leone to political pluralism, the secretary of state informed the bank officials that the NPRC had no desire to stay in power any longer than necessary and explained the steps taken in the direction of political pluralism. The secretary of state explained that in line with the IMF-World Bank program, government has embarked on the process of privatization of state-owned enterprises to make them economically viable.

Togo

'Many' Civil Servants Resume Work 15 Mar

AB1603182493 Kara Radio Kara in French 1300 GMT
16 Mar 93

[Text] Many civil servants returned to their offices on 15 March in response to the appeal made last week by Garba Joachim Dovi, minister of employment, labor, and civil service, for work to resume throughout the country. Indeed, this is because Togolese know that only work can free them. Yesterday, the minister made it a point to visit offices himself. Mr. Dovi then thanked leaders for their patriotism in building a new Togo.

Political Alliance Offers Solutions To End Crisis

AB1603212793 Lome Radio Lome in French 1900
GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Late this afternoon, the head of state, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, met the Bureau of the Alliance of Democrats for the Republic [ADR] at his Lome II private residence. The group was led by its chairman, Okoulo Issifou Kantchakpi. After the audience, this is what Kantchakpi told the press:

[Begin recording] [Kantchakpi] We have come to see the head of state. Everybody knows that for more than four months now—we entered the fifth today—we have been facing a serious crisis. This crisis has claimed many innocent victims. It is necessary to think of all the farmers and all those not directly involved in politics but who have been suffering from the consequences of the general and unlimited strike. I am talking of economic consequences. This means that Togo is sick today. That

is why we have come to see the head of state, so that we can tell him that it is his duty, as well as that of the other officials of the transitional government to take urgent measures to get us out of this crisis.

First, as Togolese, and as members of a political party with a duty to participate in the administration—this, at least, is our wish ... [changes thought] with a duty, at least, to participate in efforts aimed at finding solutions to the major problems facing the nation—we have come with a document containing the ADR's suggestions. We had the honor of presenting to the president our effort toward helping Togo out of this crisis, which we have not been able to overcome and which has been claiming innocent victims.

[Unidentified reporter] Could you briefly enumerate the highlights of this document?

[Kantchakpi] The highlights of this document are that we, in the ADR, think that the problem—the sickness—worrying Togo and the political class is ostracism. There is a sort of egoism which makes each party and each side want to govern without the other. To us, this is not normal. In the first place, this is not how the African is educated. The African is always ready to share things with others. The only way we think we can get out of this crisis is through a collective administration of public affairs. We need a collective administration which is such that those who are in power cannot neglect the others and that those who are in power should try to bring the minority into their administration and assure them that no matter what happens, we are all Togolese and that together, we must guard the future of our country along the same course. [end recording]

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